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April 19, 2026

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CRISIS CONTINUES

Iran closes Strait of Hormuz again

Tehran declares full military control over the strait, while U.S. insists its blockade will continue until a deal is reached

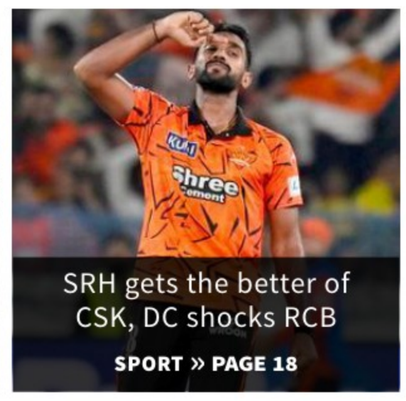
WORLD » PAGE 17

Two Americans, two paths: Trump vs Pope

PROFILES » PAGE 16

What led to the Noida workers' protest?

FAQ » PAGE 15



SRH gets the better of CSK, DC shocks RCB

SPORT » PAGE 18

Govt. seeks 3 months more to hold GBA polls

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms (DPAR) has written to the Karnataka State Election Commission seeking an extension of the deadline for conducting Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) elections till September 30, citing a severe strain on available staff owing to the ongoing national Census and Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

This comes even as the Supreme Court had in January set a June 30, 2026 deadline for Bengaluru civic polls. The polls have been due since September 2020. There has been much cynicism over whether polls will be held on time within the apex court set deadline.

The DPAR in its letter to SEC, said that 26,616 personnel have been deployed for the National Census and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, limiting the availability of staff for election-related preparatory work.

The communication comes in the backdrop of a proposal submitted by the GBA Chief Commissioner to the State Election Commission and the Chief Secretary, flagging the same concerns and seeking additional time. Based on these inputs, the DPAR has now backed the request.

The letter pointed out that Census exercise scheduled between April 16 and May 15, involve extensive fieldwork, including enumeration, supervision, training and logistics, requiring full deployment of administrative and ground-level staff. At the same time, the SIR process, critical for ensuring accuracy and completeness of electoral rolls, is expected to be carried out over the coming months using the same field-level functionaries such as booth-level officers (BLOs) and supervisors.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 6

NDA will remove hurdles before women's quota: PM

Modi launches sharp attack on Opposition, says reservation was need of the hour; women won't forgive 'attack on dignity', will give these parties a fitting response for denial of rights, he adds

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

> I know that 100% of the women in this country were backing the move. I want to assure all the women that we will remove every obstacle in the way, we are resolute on this and our intentions are also immovable on this
>
> **NARENDRA MODI**
> Prime Minister

A day after the government failed to secure passage of the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, which sought to redistribute Lok Sabha seats on the basis of the 2011 Census to expedite the implementation of women's reservation, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the National Democratic Alliance remained committed to removing all obstacles to the move.

Addressing the nation on Saturday, Mr. Modi launched a sharp attack on the Opposition, accusing it of "committing a foeticide of the idea of women's representation before the whole world, via their opposition to the move". He said while the NDA could not muster the "66% support" in the Lok Sabha for operationalising women's reservation on Friday, it had the backing of women across the country.

"I know that 100% of women in this country were backing the move. I seek forgiveness from all women of the country. I want to assure them that we will remove every obstacle in the way. We are resolute on this, and our intentions are also immovable," he said. In his 30-minute speech, he criticised Opposition parties, including the Congress, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, Trinamool Congress, and Samajwadi Party.

"When the Constitutional Amendment Bill fell in the Lok Sabha, these parties appeared elated and were thumping their desks. It was not an expression of joy, but an attack on the dignity and self-respect of every women in the country," he said.

He termed the Bills introduced by the Centre the "need of the hour" and that he had himself assured the Lok Sabha that representation of all States would increase proportionately in the Lower House. "Our mothers and sisters across the country have seen this, and they will give such parties a fitting response for the denial of their rights," he said.

Opposition flays Modi's address

NEW DELHI
Opposition parties slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech, with Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge alleging that he violated the Model Code of Conduct. » PAGE 10

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RELATED REPORTS ON » PAGES 9 AND 10

INDIA bloc may write to PM to delink quota from delimitation

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

> The so-called women's reservation law was tied to delimitation and an increase in seats. If women's reservation was the real goal, a simple amendment was all it needed
>
> **A. REVANTH REDDY**
> Telangana CM

Opposition parties are likely to write to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to implement the women's reservation law of 2023 immediately by delinking it from the delimitation process.

On Saturday morning, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge presided over a meeting of the floor leaders of the Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA) bloc at which the issue was discussed.

INDIA bloc leaders discussed its strategy to counter the BJP's offensive that the Opposition parties were anti-women. They also held discussions about holding press conferences across the country to say that they support women's reservation and that the government was trying to change the political map of the country under the guise of the quota law.

During the meeting, sources said all leaders congratulated one another. Congress Parliamentary Party leader Sonia Gandhi thanked the allies.

At a separate press conference, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy alleged that the BJP was attempting to change the Constitution.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

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Deceptive drama in the name of quota: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Saturday accused the Centre of staging a "deceptive political drama" in the guise of women's reservation Bill, calling it an "insult and betrayal" to women nationwide.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said the Centre had convened a special session of Parliament in haste and held token discussion to ensure the Bill's failure. He reiterated that the Congress is not against women's reservation. Meanwhile, BJP leaders accused the Congress of "denying justice" to women by not backing the Bill.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 8

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NEARBY

Don't be afraid of AI, CJI tells judicial officers

BENGALURU
Advising judicial officers not to be afraid of AI, CJI Surya Kant said the judiciary must be technologically adept, yet philosophically grounded, and embrace innovation, without surrendering to its human character. » PAGE 8

3RD language row: Govt. files review petition

BENGALURU
Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa has said that the government has filed a review petition in the High Court against a single Judge order to award marks and not grades for third language in SSLC examination. » PAGE 5

GBA releases final electoral rolls

BENGALURU
The GBA on Saturday published the final electoral rolls for 369 wards across five city corporations. » PAGE 6

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGE J2
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Colours of Kashmir: Amid a drizzlie in Srinagar, tourists visit the Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden, one of the largest gardens of its kind in Asia. IMRAN NISSAR

Himalayan blanket: A view of the town of Sissu after a fresh spell of snowfall, in Lahaul-Spiti, Himachal Pradesh. ANI

Monsoon prep: Workers cover wheat sacks with tarpaulin sheets to protect the grain from rain at a market in Patiala, Punjab. PTI

Slick streets, capital look: Pedestrians make their way along a glistening Kartavya Path following rain in New Delhi. The city's weather depends a lot on the plains around it, and the Himalayas. If it snows in the ranges, it rains in the city or there is a temperature drop. ANI

Waltz of the winds

A 'disturbance' in the weather system brings rain to India during non-monsoon months but can also disrupt agricultural schedules and trigger extreme events

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) had forecast that the month of April would have 12% more rain than is usual over most of India except the northeastern States and part of the southern peninsula.

This also means that several parts of North India, which usually start to become hot and dry, were relatively cooler on account of several "western disturbances" (WD).

These are extra-tropical storms from the Mediterranean that bring in rains to India during the non-monsoon months. The month of March saw eight such WD in North India, two above the six that's usual.

Following eight WDs in March, at least three or four distinct, strong systems affected northwest India through mid-April, causing significant damage to crops in Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan.

The number of such WDs are expected to abate in the latter half of the month.

The WDs have an effect of improving air quality in some regions. The rain settles atmospheric dust but in the build-up to the rain, there can be a temporary rise in dust from the strong winds that precede these rains.

Text by Jacob Koshy

Winged visitors: Pigeons perch on electrical wires while a few take flight amid the rain in the old quarters of Delhi. AFP

Classifieds

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VISHWAKARMA GIRL, 32 yrs, Height 152cm, Phd, seeks chennai based groom, Ct:9789931336

DIVORCEE

AGE –35, BE Graduate Working, Divorce Muslim Bride, Seeks A Groom in a Good Job. Ct: 9865130076

KIND, ATTRACTIVE, 41, well–educated NRI professional, yet willing to relocate. Seeks compatible groom. Caste no bar. Call/WA 93456 34365.

DIVORCEE TAMIL 41 PQ MNC B'lore seeks qualified Hindu groom in India without issues CNB. ndkp2025@outlook.com

DOCTOR

Hindu DKV 31/156 Mutal Divorced (No Kids) MBBS, MD (Patho) Coimbatore based Working in Pvt Medical College Hospital 14 Lacs p.a seeks suitable groom (CNB) Doctor or any Professionals. CT: 9894371444

HINDU VALLUVAN upper middle class fair slim 34 years 155cm MBBS, MD, DM 30 to 40 lakhs per annum, star Sadayam Bangalore require MBBS MD with good salary 34 to 37 years. Ct: 9845522122

FAIR, CULTURED, Good looking, Slim, Doctor girl 36/165 MD, Cardiac Anesthesiologist, Chennai based affluent Doctor family. Father Keralite Nair, Mother from TN. Looking for Doctor or Engineer groom from respectable family. 9840050381/ 9840985383

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HINDI

CA,CFE AGARWAL 26/158cm consultant at MNC(WFH) Fair & Beautiful Girl From Reputed Fmly. Seeking Educated Groom from respected fmly. 8171351626

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

Hindu, Tamil, Gounder, 45 years, IPS, seeks Groom, Phone. 9578822036.

MALAYALAM

SYRIAN CHRISTIAN Pentecostal Elite Fly @ Chennai Seeks for their Architect Girl 27y/175cm from Professionally Qlfd Boy (HT>6') 9790893483

HINDU EZHAVA lady Doctor 31/160 working in Germany invites suitable matrimonial proposal. 9496965983

NAIR GIRL 92 born ,165cm,MBBS, Atham,seeking Nair groom from chennai/kerala/TN WhatsApp profile 9042526302,No Brokers

HINDU NAIR girl (1/3/2002, 5:15 am, Uthram) Trivandrum, MBA Australia working in Logistics company. Seeking Alliances without or with horoscope. 9526364446.

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TAMIL

CATHOLIC, 28, Rich / affluent, Chennai circle. 8138900312

CHRISTIAN NADAR, 29, MD, CMC Vellore. Seeks suitable Groom age 30 to 33. Doctors, Engineers, Professionals. 85261 91000, 94453 96996

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✔ **MUSLIM GIRL, 39, engineer, slim, seeks educated, employed, unmarried Tamil Muslim groom. 9444235779**

TAMIL MUSLIM Girl, Singapore Citizen, 30 Yrs / 165 cm. Electrical Engg–NUS–Singapore, looking for suitable alliance. NRI or Overseas Educated Groom, Good Family, Willing to relocate to Singapore. Ct: 8056007500

CHRISTIAN PENTECOSTAL Tamil 28/ 154cm, 40K – MNC Seeking Suitable Bridegroom. CT: 95249 50931

BORN AGAIN Christian, 45yrs/152, MBBS, MD doctor, seeks christian groom, Chennai. CT – 9500188067

CATHOLIC AD Wheatish Girl, 37/165 ME Software Chennai, seeks Suitable Educated Working Groom 9442171879

HINDU, DKV, Er., 26y, April, 154cm/45kg M.Tech, Bosch, Research Er.,1L/pm, eql. Edu & physical status. 98432 24626 / 7598384241

HINDU GIRL 28 yrs Fair Slim BE MS 5 yrs MNC Exp. Working in Bangalore seeks Professional Groom 9444000654

PILLAI 28/162 MS Engineer Bangalore seeks Smart High professional Abroad Ok CNB Geetham 9884858014

GROOM WANTED vokkaliga Gounder, 27yrs MBA,well educated family seeks alliance from Gounder/ Mudaliyar business/ IT in Chennai. 9380791999

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar 36yrs, B.tech, MBA working in SWE 2Lp/m, divorce educated family Ph:. 9841329471 / ,9380791999

RICH NAIDU 33yrs, BE, MBA, Industrial background in Chennai Ph:6369113665

TAMIL

ARCOT THULUVA Velalar Mudaliyar BDS 34 Years Well Settled Family Chennai CT : 6382232024 / 9486531194

SC/ADIDRAVIDAR/MSC DOB 1983 bride seeks suitable qualified employeed bridegroom 8754354205

SC ARUNTHATHIAR, 32yrs/ 150ft, Govt. Doctor, MBBS., M.S., seeks suitable Groom.9788153517,6381334373

YADAV, RICH / affluent, MBA, looking for equal profile. 7356483111

RC NADAR, BDS, looking for a Business profile. 8138900316

HINDU, B.TECH, looking for a Canada profile in any caste. 8138009235

MUDHALIYAR, 30, rich / affluent, looking for equal caste in Tamil Nadu and Bangalore circle. 8138900412

PILLAI, 30 lakhs, widow, looking for equal caste in Chennai circle. 8138900553

MUDALIAR/ PILLAI: 22/Beautiful, MBA, Father Industrialist, Elite Family, Only daughter, seeks groom only Business. Ct– 9962530015

MUDALIAR (CNB) : 24/Fair, BE, MS (USA), MNC, SWE, USA, Decent Pay, Elite Family, Seeks Groom Abroad / India.Ct – 8925019776

BHMS (HOMOEOPATHY DOCTOR) Medical Claim Officer UTI Central Government (working in Chennai) Pillai, 17/07/1997, Height: 160cm, Virchigam Kettai looking Groom from same caste, Doctor / Engineer, Good family background. Contact: 98421 06061

DIVORCE (NO–KIDS) 43Yrs/M.Sc., M.Phil., Ph.D* Job: Asst. Prof. RC/ SC (AD), Wanted Groom with Decent Profession / Job Caste No Bar 6382135986

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GROOM WANTED SC (AD), 27yrs, B.Tech, MBA, Well Educated Family in Chennai Ph; 6369113665

GROOM WANTED CSI Nadar 25yrs,BE,MS Australia,SWE,1.5Lp/m, educated family:9841329471/9380791999

GROOM WANTED Mudaliyar, 27yrs, MBA, Elite business family in Bangalore Ph: 6385293227

FASHION DESIGNER SaivaMudaliar Anusham 33 Very Fair Propertied NeedVeg IT/ Govt Employed Groom 9566268349

HINDU Tamil, Sengundhar, Avittam, EEE (Dip) 23 Seeks SWE/Business below 26 groom from same sect having own house. Mob: 94435 10915.

GROOM WANTED Rich Naidu,30yrs, Divorce, MBA,well educated background in Chennai Ph;9962791888

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SCA, 29YEARS, B.Tech, MBA (BIM 2019–21)13 LPA seeks Tamil Suitable Groom, CNB, Ct: 9441677205

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DIVORCEE

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REQUIRE CARING Girl without issues caste no bar for a Chennai based hindu boy 51 yrs divorcee without issues.Ct: 9841672014

DOCTOR

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Feb 1998, 178cm, MBBS, MD, General Medicine, DM Nephrology (Sri Ramachandra Medical College, Chennai), Seeks MDS, MBBS, MD Doctor Bride. Contact: 9500085244

VANNIYAR KULA Kshatriyar MD, 25. Seeks MBBS, MD Bride from Hindu Family. Contact: 9445644311

HINDU – SC – AD – 33, Fair – MBBS, Seeks Doctor Bride – Same Community, Ct:– 9444314459

HINDU YADAVA, 13.07.1995, 3:25 PM, 176 cm, seeks MBBS/MD bride. Contact: 9444674978 / 9942005782.

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

33. 168 cm. Mgr, SBI. Atheist, Christian family. Seeks financially independent, intellectually inclined Tamil/Malayali partner. Caste/religion no bar. Ctct: 9789227517

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

MALAYALAM

VISHWAKARMA BOY 30yrs/167cm ht, chennai settled ct:9789931336

TAMIL

GROOM WANTED Pillai,34yrs, BE, working in Central Govt, Well Educated Family Ph: 6385293227

NAIDU 38, MSc, 156cm Good looking 24Lac PA wellsettled Seeks suitable Groom CNB. Ct:8778514465/ 7200866346

Hindu SC Arundhadiyar 31 B.Sc (CS) 2nd marriage-have 5 yrs boy-expecting clean habits Kind Guys. 99942-84675.

ATTRACTIVE, SOFT 30, 168cm, well–read UK–based architect. Open to relocating. Cultured, affluent Tamil/Telugu family. Seeks compatible groom. Caste no bar. Call/WA 93456 34365

MUDALIAR VEG 49/163 Bpt Ch Seek well Settled Groom Pillai Brahmin Widowr with child Ok Geetham 9884858014

VANNIYAR, BRIDE 32 / 157CM / MEENAM, REVATHI, IT PROFESSIONAL, B.E, MBA, 9L PA, EXPECTING GOOD-LOOKING BRIDEGROOM FROM BC / MBC PREFERABLE.
CONTACT
9500122750

HINDU NADAR: Age 25 PGDM, very fair, Looking for Chennai Settled Business Family, WhatsApp: 9840907301

Sengunthar, 29/165cm BE, Asst. Manager in Govt. Bank Chennai 9444449753

MALAYALAM

SUITABLE BRIDE CNB for Malayalam Intercaste groom 40/182 MNC Bosch 30 LPA Coimbatore TN, Innocent Divorcee/homely bridewithout kids also accepted. CT: 88076 59287 & 99524 85996.

PALAKKAD EZHUVA boy 30/158cm/Btech/ HCL/Bangalore/WFH/Shudha Jathakam. Seeks suitable bride Ph 9495136088

✔ **INTELLIGENT, SPIRITUALLY** INCLINED GROOM, Well–settled, Hindu, 38, alumnus of IIT Madras (BTech & MTech), Director in AI Company (San Francisco, Bangalore, Trivandrum). UAE Golden Visa Holder. 168 cm, fair, good–looking, from a reputed family. Legally divorced (brief marriage under 1 year). Looking for a Wise, Charming, Intelligent, Hindu Girl. Contact Mother : 8075491499. (Not by bureau)

NAIR ANIZHAM, 29yrs, BE, Data Science IIT–M, MNC IT Chennai Settled, 1.50 L/pm seeks alliance. 7338703789.

Affluent Family Invites Alliance for Handsome Boy, B.E.,183cm, 29 Years, Manager MNC, Chennai. Malayalee Bride below 26 Years, WhatsApp only 9036600300.

SAURASTRA

SAURASTRA HINDU: CNB, 40, 1st Marriage, Kanni Hastham, MBA Finance, 1.5 L pm, Seeks Suitable Bride. Parents Contact. 9444735240 / 9381725577

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, 35/ 170cm, Divorcee, B.E. M.S (USA) Work Permit. Looking for a Suitable Bride working at USA Ct: 9003212573

CATHOLIC 26/ BBA ;LLB/172/ Infra business/ Chennai. Seeks educated / Spritual girl with business back ground. Ct: 9025608385

CSI CHRISTIAN Nadar, 42, M.E., working in USA SWE, for a handsome divorced Groom Native - Nagercoil. seeks beautiful Bride educated, willing to go USA, 1st or 2nd Marriage. Ct: 09486472450, 09345648649

ADVOCATE–COIMBATORE, 47 years, Male, AD Christian Seeks Bride Contact: 81241 72496

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 37yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

RC CHRISTIAN, 43yrs/170, B.E. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai. CT– 9500188067

HINDU NAIDU/PILLAI, 30/180, Vishagam, Virchigam, ME, Sr. Engineer, Pvt. Chennai, CNB. Ct: 9840619480.

ADIDRAVIDAR AGE 29 BE, MBA Pvt 85000 / well settled wants suitable bride. ct: 8122289871, 9444139323

TAMIL

REMARRIAGE 42YRS Divorce.+2. Mudaliar Caste No Bar Ct: 7708700879. 9841817000

Mudaliar,29/168, Fair, BTECH wkg in MNC.Seeks suitable Groom, preferably Govt/ MNC/ CA/ Banking Professional from Hyderabad Contact: 9704890626

HINDU ADI-DRAVIDA Upper Middle Class, Fair, Slim, 32/174cm, MD.DM Govt, Risabam Chennai. Seeks Groom with Good Looking & Salary below 37years Caste no bar. Ph:9840728782

Wanted SCAD Professional Groom for only daughter 34/168 ME PhD WA: 6381757167

TELUGU

HINDU NAIDU 40 yrs 172cm Divorced no children, Well settled educated family seeks professionally well qualified groom from (40-44) Contact no. 9842470621.

TELUGU YADAVA 32/162 Thiruvonam Magaram B.Tech seeks suitable groom. Send Horoscope: Whatsapp 9500046027

BALIJA/CASTE NO Bar, 28/174, MS–Fin.UK, Fair & Spiritual, seeks well settled groom from good family background, willing to settle abroad, Ct:9840426106

NAIDU,24/165, FAIR, Beautiful, ME, BITS PILANI, ELITE BUSINESS FAMILY, 50Cr, CNB, 9043991629,9043987029

URDU

Sunni Muslim parents seek a suitable NRI Doctor Groom(SMU),aged 29-34 Years, residing in USA, for their Daughter 28Years, Doctor doing Residency in New york, Cont: 9884149166.

TAMIL

BRIDE WANTED Mudaliyar,28yrs,MBBS, MD,DNB,Own Transports& Warehouses in Chennai,Affluent family:6369113665

HINDU MUDALIAR 34/165 M.Tech, Lecturer, seeks good family bride. Caste No Bar. Ct: 9791507303

NAIDU, B.TECH., Age :34, Punarpoosam, Working in Germany Rs.72 Lakhs p/a. Ct:73054 60763

WELL–SETTLED GROOM, aged 48, own house IT employee, needs Hindu bride between 36 to 40. Contact 0413 2968644

40 BE Mudaliyar Chennai Asst Manager, Private. 1st Marriage. Decent Background Ct: 8610518808, 9952010118

HINDU, VVIP, looking for a royale and Good looking profile in south districts (any caste). 8137003550

HINDU, 34, ME, Brahmin, 45 lakhs, looking for equal profile. 8137003516

PILLAI SOZHIA Vellalar 34 yrs Poosam Kadagam Raghu-Kethu Non Veg. Lead Engineer in MNC at Coimbatore, one Lakh pm. Seeks suitable educated Bride age 27-30. Ct: 9443859181.

HINDU NADAR 29yrs, B.Tech, MS,SWE, 2 Lp/m,well educated family 9841329471,9380791999

MUDALIAR 42Y/180CM Wheatish, BSc.(Elec), Credit Manager in Reputed Co, 8Ls PA, 1st& Late Marrg 9395398624

HINDU–BE, SWE, 34yrs, 172cms, 33LPA, Ayillam – Kadagam settled in Bangalore, financially stable and educated. Looking for suitable Bride from educated family. Ct: 9845401461.

BRIDE WANTED Rich Mudaliyar,33yrs, BE, MBA,35 lakhs PA, well educated family in Chennai 9952619776

AUDITOR/ 46 Chennai/ Seeks Any Vegetarian Hindu Girl. Contact : 9884398109

CHENNAI MUDLR. PhD Tetolr Divorcd, 42yrs 170cm GM Chess Govt 24L/ Yr Educ Simple Any Cast.girl 9884171419

ARYAVYSYA, 44/180, MNC, Mumbai, Property in Chennai, CNB. Contact: 9841551772

PILLAI 38 Govt Officer Swati/Thulam looking bride 2nd Marriage from BC only 9597331609

SCA, 32YEARS, M.E (PSGCT), MBA (SIOM 2020–22)18 LPA Seeks Tamil Suitable Bride, CNB, Ct: 9441677205

GAVARA NAIDU / born 2000/ M.Arch. Architect & Valuer / Own Business / Well Settled / Native Kumbakonam Seeks Bride Ct : 9940787620.

HINDU NAIDU Gavara, 40yrs/178 cm, Aswini PG pvt,40000 pm first Marriage seeks unmarried Bride. Caste open for discussion. Ct: 8248869954

TAMIL

MUDALIAR (CNB): 32/ Handsome, MBBS, MS Gen.Surgery doing in USA, Elite Family, Only son, Seeks Bride India / Abroad – Whats app call only 9841718205 (Mother) / 8925019776

MUDALIYAR 44/176 cm 24 lakhs per annum, running own business seeks bride CNB. 9740098865 / 9444348233

DIVORCEE HINDU. 35yrs No issues, M.Tech, well settled Software Engineer, seeking bride with no issues. Caste no bar. 9841862535, 9941962421

BUSINESSMAN SETTLED Age 48. looking for a understanding companion or a life long relationship, interested persons specifically from TamilNadu or South India Ct 9344087191

AUS CTZN Tamil Brahmin Kashyap June 1973 Groom invites Brahmin Brides. +91 99620 02012

IYER AGE 32, 175cm B. E.(ECE) IT Professional 15 Laks Annum Chennai Vadoola, Rohini, Seeks Employed Girl from any South Indian Brahmin Community 9789909179

BRAHMIN IYER Boy, 32/170cms, B.Tech, TCS Chennai.seeks Brahmin Graduate Girl. Simple marriage. 9940352807

LOOKING FOR Alliance for IYER GROOM 45, B.A. LL.B. Born, Educated and Settled in Mumbai with own residence, working with Father in 30 year old Family Business. Is a Mridangam and Ghatam Artiste Expect Bride to be ideally Graduate and with interest in Carnatic Classical Music Vocal or Instrumental. Contact: dramasanthosh@gmail.com , Mobile No. 9920052977

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom
Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion. First Marriage Only
CT: 93842 76066

Hindu Nadar 26-years 183 cm MTech, Private Company Contact - Phone. 9443781438

✔ **MUDALIAR 36/174 CHN IT Emp seeks Hindu Girl Contact :- 9790877562**

Muslim, BE Civil Engineer, doing Construction Business, Studied MBA (HR) Also. Only Son Age 26, Ht 177cm Own Houses & Shops with rental income. Affluent well educated parents of good status, reputed family & Religious Values seeks Suitable bride. 8925227694

TAMIL

ALLIANCE INVITED - For Remarriage Groom
Hindu aged 33 years, Height 180 cm, Born 1992, Thiruvadirai, Mithunam, well educated, Fair and Handsome, owner of established business, seeks educated and good looking Hindu Bride, Caste No Bar, wish to relocate abroad.
Phone: 9944617609
Email id: msm207229@gmail.com

TAMIL

BRIDE WANTED
Mudaliar 30/180 Handsome M.S. (Mktg) USA, Having Own Manufacturing Industry Chennai. Elite Family Seeks Well Educated Bride, Good Family
9382137912 / 8825401763

BRIDE WANTED for Boy Born Aug 2002, Slim, 170cm- Poosam 1 Patham Kadagam - B.Tech IT 2024 Chennai, Working in TCS at Chennai - Parents, Tamil Iyer, Brahmin, Vadamal, Kousigam, Yajurvedam, North Arcot (Native Munjurpet, Vellore) -Settled at Chennai - Only Son - Seeks Suitable Bride from same caste - Respond with full details: giridharanmr@gmail.com Mobile: 97914 32784

Pillai M.B.A., M.Phil., M.Com., (Ph.D) 50 Simmam Magam Kurumandur Medu Gobi. Cell. 9791508143

Remarriage, Mudaliar Boy 33, SWE, Working Canada, seeks Good Family Background Bride in Chennai /Canada Subsects No Bar. Wtsapp:9944423257

Hindu Thuluvavellar, 37yrs/168cm, Govt Staff, Income of 1.5Lakhs/PM, Partially Blind, seeks Suitable Bride. Contact: 9941602214 / 9789769606

TELUGU

BALIJA NAIDU Parents Settled in Australia / Masters / 31 / 185Cms / Fair Handsome Well Settled, Gud Fmly Values, Invites Alliance from Similar Background. Ct:+91 73053 50270

MUDALIAR,29/188, HANDSOME, MBBS MS, KAUVERY HOSPITAL, CHENNAI, 2600000 PA, CNB, 9043991629, 9043987029

NAIDU,29/185, H–SOME, BE, MBA, OWN MNC,8000000.PA, ELITE BUSINESS FAMILY,100Cr CNB, 9043991629, 9043987029

NAIDU 37, BE, ECE, Quality Engr in Pvt Company Well Settled Family in Chennai. Caste NoBar 8939090211

TELUGU

KAMBALLATUNAICKER 32 yrs studied in Madras School of Economics working in Natwest Bank, Scotland (Head office) for 11yrs as Cross Portfolio insights Manager- Credit strategy seeking bride from Telugu speaking people. Ph: (UK) - +44 7398 143572 Father : + 91 98401 94300

BRIDE WANTED for a Hindu/Naidu, 28yrs 192cm Engineer/Employed /US Citizen looking for Girls Employed Students at USor Employed Professional willing to move to US. Ct:9600022622

Telugu Brahmin, 40 Years, B.Tech/ MBA, Digital Marketing Consultant, Respectable Family, Second Marriage, seeks suitable Brahmin Degree Girl, 20 Lpa, Contact: 9910991959, Email: vasudeva57@yahoo.com

Balija Naidu Jul '97 V.Fair I 5'.4" I BE,MBA IT Bengaluru. Seeks well Educated and Working – preferably Bengaluru / Chennai. Ph: 9952057740

Balija 29/178 BE/MBA Mesham - Ashwini Working in Chennai Seeks Bride Ct: 8754580155

URDU

PHD BIOTECH professional working as Research Associate in Bangalore, APR 89,170 cm, seeks (SMU) qualified, working girl – 9445714602

TN MUSLIM Syed Urdu 29/167cm Handsome Doctor MD.DM.AIIMS, New Delhi seeks beautiful urdu,syed/sheik MD/M.S.religious bride TN/Pondy Cell 9952828485

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Australia All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. 8248757840

SITUATIONS VACANT

TECHNICAL

CIVIL ENGINEERS @Chennai, Age below–35,Stay in Site Only Ct:9840222999

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- Ability to Manage Operators, Shift Production & Daily Targets
- Knowledge of Machining Processes & Shop Discipline

CNC Setters/ Programmers
- Exp.: 2–8 years
- Proficiency in CNC Turning/ Milling, Setting & Programming
- Knowledge of Fanuc/ Siemens controls..

8148922894, 9940037845
brightsteelshr@gmail.com

WANTED 0 to 3years exp BE/DME Production Engg for Steel Engg Factory at Chennai 97898 23650

INDUSTRIAL NEEDS

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GENERAL

LEGAL NOTICE

BEFORE THE HON'BLE FAMILY COURT, KATTAPPANA
OP 1138/2025

Petitioner
Vijayakumari L, aged 59 years, D/o Kuttappan K, residing at Kuzhakkekunthaliyil House, Kuzhupetty, Chottupara, Parathodu Village, Udumbanchola Taluk, Idukki District - 685 552 and now residing at 17269 via Chiquita, San Lorenzo, California-94580, USA

Respondent
C Elumalai, aged 57 years, S/o Chinnappa, 19,2 cross, Sri Sai Layout, Bidarachalli Hobli, VTC, Kannur P.O, Banglore South, Banglore, Karnataka- 562 149

Notice

Whereas the petitioner has filed the above petition for dissolving the marriage between the petitioner and the respondent. Though the Hon'ble Court has issued summons in the above case in your favour, it was returned. Hence you are hereby informed to appear before this Court, in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above petition, or who shall be accompanied by some person, able to answer all such questions, on the 6th day of May 2026 at 11. O'clock in the forenoon, to answer the petition. Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the above petition will be heard and determined in your absence.

Kattappana
01.04.2026 By order
Adv: Gisa Susan Thomas
(Counsel for the petitioner)

TENDERS

SAINT-GOBAIN

TENDER FOR RAW MATERIAL TRANSPORTATION
SAINT-GOBAIN INDIA PVT. LTD.
(Sriperumbudur, Tiruvallur & Oragadam - Tamil Nadu, Harohalli, Bengaluru - Karnataka)

We would like to invite interested parties to participate in the tender for handling domestic raw material transportation.

THE SCOPE OF WORK INVOLVES:
- Transport of Raw Material by tippers (28MT, 35MT & 40MT passing capacity as per the RTO GVW norms) from Mines/Suppliers/Ports (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Chennai Port, Ennore Port and Kattupalli Port) to our plants located in Sriperumbudur, Oragadam, Tiruvallur (Tamil Nadu) & Harohalli, Bengaluru (Karnataka) - Aggregated volume shall be around **820,000MT/Annum**.
- Period of contract: 1 to 5 Years

PARTICIPATION DETAILS:
1. Tender documents will be sent by e-mail on receipt of payment of Rs. 50,000/- by Demand Draft in favor of M/s. Saint-Gobain India Pvt. Ltd., payable at Mumbai - before 30th April 2026.
2. The DD has to be sent to the below mentioned address. This amount would be refunded in 3 months from the submission date.
3. Please mention the mail ID on which the tender documents must be sent.
4. The Tender form shall be sent between 1st May 2026 to 10th May 2026.
5. The last date of submission of quotation shall be 25th May 2026.

CONTACT DETAILS:
Mr. Yahappa Rajan. S
Team Leader – Purchase
Saint-Gobain India Pvt. Ltd.
Plot A1, Industrial Park, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu – 602 105, India.
Email:
yahappa.rajan@saint-gobain.com
aswin.v@saint-gobain.com

Man held for blackmailing Customs officer booked for assaulting police personnel

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 51-year-old electronic goods dealer, arrested by the Pulakeshi Nagar police a week ago for allegedly blackmailing and sexually harassing a woman Customs officer, has been booked for assaulting police personnel during medical examination.

The arrest of the accused M. Kripalani, a resident of Indiranagar, came after the officer filed a complaint accusing him of exploiting her trust and threatening to release private material to coerce her.

As part of the investigation, the police escorted the accused to Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital, where he reportedly created a ruckus, snatched the phone of a police personnel and smashed it to the ground and allegedly assaulted police personnel.

A probe into the sexual harassment and blackmail case against the accused has revealed that he had similarly harassed many other Customs officials

He was then shifted to Victoria Hospital, where too he allegedly repeated the same behaviour.

Two FIRs filed

Two FIRs have been filed against him for assault and obstructing a government servant from performing his/her duties.

Police sources said that the accused was involved in a similar case a decade ago. After allegedly being caught drunk driving, he allegedly assaulted traffic police personnel. He reportedly filed a counter case against the personnel accusing them of robbery. The case is now pending before the Supreme Court, a senior police officer said. Meanwhile, the officer claimed that the investigation into the sexual harassment and blackmail case against the accused had revealed that he had similarly harassed many other Customs officials.

Blackmail

"Being an electronics goods dealer, he would import material regularly, thereby coming in touch with Customs officials. He would get information about the officials through RTI, file complaints against them and use that to blackmail them. Using this *modus operandi*, he seems to have harassed over 50 officials," the police officer said. The accused has been remanded in judicial custody and further investigation is on.

From earthen pots to lemons, summer staples get costlier

Retailing at ₹80 a kg in January, lemons are now being sold at ₹150 to ₹180 a kg, with traders anticipating a further rise

Pratyusha Srivastav
BENGALURU

From lemons and coconut water to earthen pots, a range of summer essentials have seen a price uptick across Bengaluru markets, with traders expecting the trend to continue as temperatures rise and demand peaks in the coming weeks.

The cost of lemons has increased sharply over the past few months. Retailing at around ₹80 per kg in January, lemons are now being sold at ₹150 to ₹180 per kg, with traders anticipating a further rise to ₹220-₹250 per kg during peak summer.

"Prices have gone up significantly and will likely increase further as demand rises," said Manju, a vegetable trader at Madiwala market. The prices of

A vendor arranging earthen pots as the summer season begins in Bengaluru. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

The prices of tender coconuts are currently sold at ₹50-₹70 a piece depending on size, and traders expect a marginal increase of ₹10-₹20 in the coming weeks

tender coconuts, another summer staple, are currently in the range of ₹50-₹70 per piece depending on size, with traders expecting a marginal increase of ₹10-₹20 in the coming weeks.

"The price mostly remains stable throughout the year, but in summer, higher demand pushes it up slightly," said Hari, a tender coconut seller in Jayanagar. He added that prices also vary based on the source, with supplies

coming from Tamil Nadu and Kerala influencing rates. Cucumbers, however, have remained relatively stable so far, retailing at ₹40 to ₹50 per kg. Vendors said prices were likely to stay at similar levels unless there were disruptions in supply.

Traders also point out that prices differ slightly across markets depending on the source.

Wholesale hubs such as Madiwala are comparatively cheaper due to bulk arrivals, while neighbourhood markets like Jayanagar tend to be marginally more expensive. However, the difference at the retail level usually does not exceed ₹10 to ₹20, they said. "We procure from wholesale markets, and seasonal produce is typically costlier at the beginning of the season before easing later," said Meena, a vegetable vendor in Jayanagar.

Beyond food items, earthen pots are also seeing a seasonal surge in demand. In Pottery Town, prices currently range from ₹300 to ₹700 depending on size and quality, and are set to increase to ₹1,100-₹1,200 during peak demand. "Summer is when we see the highest demand. Prices depend on quality, size and demand, and sales now are higher than even festive seasons," said Shambhu, a pottery seller.

(This is the last part of the summer series.)

Five-year-old, under treatment for physical abuse, goes missing

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A five-year-old boy under treatment at Victoria Hospital for alleged physical abuse has gone missing from the hospital.

According to a police complaint lodged at the Vishvesharapuram Police Station, the boy, identified as Yashas, was allegedly assaulted by his mother, Sushmitha, at their residence in Vidyaranyapura on April 11. The mother is accused of punishing the boy with a heated spoon, causing injuries to his legs. The incident came to light when the child's father returned home later that night and found him in distress.

Following the revelation, a complaint was lodged at the police station. Authorities registered a case under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, and the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015, for cruelty against the child. The boy was subsequently taken for medical examination and treatment at multiple facilities before being admitted to Victoria Hospital for specialised care.

However, in a dramatic turn of events on April 14, the child reportedly went missing from the hospital. At the time of the incident, he was reportedly accompanied by his grandmother, Rajani, and shisumandira staff, Anjum.

Ms. Anjum went to get the outpatient slip for the treatment, leaving Yashas in the care of Rajani. Upon her return, she found Yashas was missing mysteriously and Rajani feigned ignorance.

Despite immediate search efforts within the hospital and surrounding areas, the child's whereabouts remain unknown. The police have now registered a missing person case and launched an investigation to trace the child. Officials are examining all possible angles, including family involvement, as concern grows over the safety and well-being of the minor.

Couple among 3 held for kidnapping younger sister and husband

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Hebbagodi police have arrested a couple and their associate for allegedly abducting their relative on Wednesday to recover the money they allegedly owed them.

According to police reports, the complaint was filed by relatives of Prithvi, the victim, who is the younger sister of Prafulla. It came following an attack carried out by the accused, Prafulla, her husband, Saleem Sheikh, and Beeresh, their associate, who is a driver.

The accused reportedly assaulted Prithvi and her husband and abducted them. The incident took place on the night of April 14 at the victim's residence in Anantanagar.

They arrived in a car, created ruckus and forcibly took the couple in the vehicle on the pretext of discussing a financial matter. During the incident, the accused allegedly assaulted the victims and later confined them at a house in Nagarabhavi. They also allegedly threatened the victims and attempted to extort money. The victims were warned not to approach the police and were reportedly threatened with severe consequences, the police said.

The police said that the victim had borrowed a loan of approximately ₹9.5 lakh from the accused, of which ₹5 lakh had been repaid. The remaining amount had led to the dispute between the parties.

When the victim phones were switched off, worried family members lodged a police complaint. The police rescued them.

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1.5 Ton 5 Star Inverter AC SAMSUNG ₹67 Per Day upto ₹2100 CASHBACK EMI ₹1990
1.5 Ton 3 Star Inverter AC Godrej ₹85 Per Day upto ₹1000 CASHBACK EMI ₹2525
VASANTH CARE Extended Warranty Air Conditioner Get upto 3 Year AMC + WARRANTY*
BAJAJ FINSERV upto ₹15000 + 1 EMI CASHBACK* (select product)
HDB FINANCIAL SERVICES upto ₹31000 CASHBACK* (For AC / LED TV / Refrigerator / Air Cooler)
TVS CREDIT upto ₹11000 CASHBACK* (For AC / Refrigerator)
IDFC FIRST Bank upto ₹30000 CASHBACK* (For AC / Refrigerator LED TV / Dishwasher) Mobile & Laptop
40" Full HD Smart TV Price ₹24990 Vasanth Price ₹17490
55" 4K UHD Google TV EMI ₹2707 Price ₹78990 Vasanth Price ₹33990
65" 4K Ultra HD LED Smart Google TV EMI ₹2611 Price ₹113390 Vasanth Price ₹46990
Akshaya Tritiya Special Offer – Home Appliances
EMI ₹2626 587 Ltr Side by Side Refrigerator Price ₹104990 upto ₹8000 CASHBACK*
EMI ₹1999 216 Ltr Frost Free Refrigerator Price ₹28790 Vasanth Price ₹21990 onwards
EMI ₹900 Direct Cool Refrigerator Price ₹24090 Vasanth Price ₹11990 onwards
12 Kg Front Loading Washing Machine EMI ₹1990 Price ₹53990 Vasanth Price ₹42990 upto ₹7000 CASHBACK*
iPhone 17 Price ₹82900 ₹3000 Cashback*
SAMSUNG Galaxy S26 Ultra (12+256 GB) Price ₹139999 upto ₹9000 CASHBACK
EMI ₹4200 Intel® Core™ 5-120U / 16 GB RAM / 512GB SSD / Win 11 MSO 21 / FHD / 15.6" / Intel UHD
Preethi 3 Jar Mixie + Iron Box Price ₹5394 Vasanth Price ₹2999
Wonderchef Air Fryer + Bullet Mixie Price ₹11000 Vasanth Price ₹3999
Vidiem Wet Grinder + Electric Kettle Price ₹9949 Vasanth Price ₹4999
Buy 5 Seater Sofa and get FREE Crompton Ceiling Fan (worth ₹2599)
Buy Cot above ₹25000 and get FREE Bullet Mixie (worth ₹3330)
*Conditions apply, Offers till stocks last,Images shown are indicative only.
SONY | LG | SAMSUNG | Panasonic | Haier | Whirlpool | Godrej | DAIKIN | BLUE STAR | IFB | Carrier | GENERAL | VOLTAS | LLOYD | LIEBHERR | Preethi | BOSCH | PHILIPS | TOSHIBA | Electrolux | TCL | BAJAJ | Butterfly | Crompton | Vidiem | USHA | HITACHI
ONIDA | FABER | SOLARIGHT | ULTRA | HAVELLS | PREMIER | KAFF | KENT | Premier | Prestige | VENUS | THANGAM | dyson | iPhone | vivo | oppo | motorola | lenovo | acer | boAt | FIRE-BOLTT | NOISE
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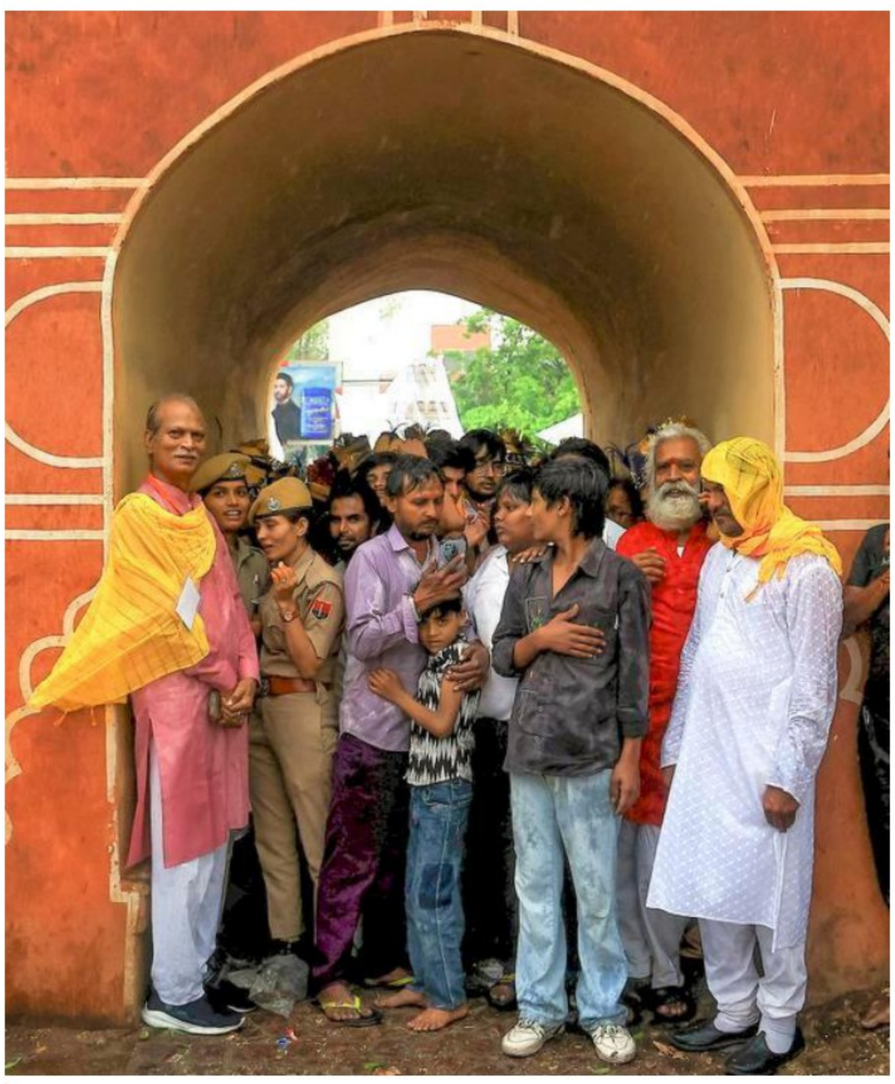
Scan QR Code to know more offer.

Under cover: People protecting themselves from rain during a spell in New Delhi. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

An honest day's work: A labourer sorts wheat grain in a field in Bhopal. Excessive and untimely rain can lead to crop damage. ANI

Pink City in sepia: Commuters brave a dust storm as rain clouds cover the skyline at Sanganeri Gate in Jaipur. PTI

Splash and dash: Vehicles ply on a rainy day in Prayagraj. ANI



Rain refugees: People take cover during a sudden shower at Sanganeri Gate in Jaipur. PTI

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RAICHUR POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

(A joint venture company of KPCL, BHEL)
(YERMARUS THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U40101KA2009PLC049582

No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT4049 Date: 15-04-2026

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

RPCL, invites bids through GOK e-procurement platform **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** under "WORKS" category from reputed bidders for Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of Unit-1 BTG Battery Bank-II for 2X160KVA UPS system. **Last Date & Time for bid submission along with Technical & Financial Bid (Part I & II) is on 28.04.2025 up to 17:00 hrs.**

Any further details can be obtained from the **Executive Engineer** (I&C)-1/YTPS, RPCL, YTPS, Yeramarus-584134, Raichur Dist. **Mobile: +91-9449598895, e-mail: eeic1ytps@gmail.com**

Government of Karnataka

DIRECTORATE OF URBAN LAND TRANSPORT URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER URBAN LAND TRANSPORT
BMTC, TTMC 'B' Block, (Above Bus Stand), 4th Floor, K.H.Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027. Ph : 080-22226627 / 6628, Fax : 080-22226630,
E-Mail : dultbangalore@gmail.com, dult@karnataka.gov.in
Website: https://dult.karnataka.gov.in

No:DULT-TECH/2/2020 Dated : 18.04.2026

RE-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) re-invites E-bids from quatified consuttancies for the services of preparation of Comprehensive Mobitity Plan (CMP) for the Bengaluru city of Karnataka. The last date for the receipt of e-bid on the **KPPP** portal for tender is **30.04.2026, 5.30pm**. The bidders may download the tender documents for from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** web portal.

Tender Number is as follows: DULT/2025-26/SE0043/CALL-2

Sd/- Joint Director(Admin)
Directorate of Urban Land Transport
Urban Development Department

DIPR/CP/263/Shirdi Sai/2026-27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಮುಖ್ಯ ವೈದ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ, ಗಂಗಾವತಿ–583227 ಜಿ॥ ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ

ದೂರವಾಣಿ :08533–230102/230103, **e-mail: sdh.gangavathi@gmail.com**

SINO:GHGVT/MCH/TENDER/10/2026-27 Date: 16/04/2026

e-Procurment Tender

Subject:- E-Procurment tender to Supply food items for diet for financial year **2026-27**

Reference:- File approval by respected Deputy Commissioner koppal On **date:- 07.04.2026**

Sub Division Hospital Gangavathi Dist Koppal here by calling of e-Procurment tender For Supply of food items for diet Estimated Amount **Rs:- 53,74,366.00** for financial year **2026-27**. Information is as follows.

1) Commencement of e-Tender from website: **18.04.2026. 2)** Last Date for Queries on or before : **30.04.2026 @ 4.00 pm. 3)**Last Date for Uploading of Tender in e-procurement platform on or before: **16.05.2026@ 4.00 pm. 4)** Sample Submission **Date: 18.05.2026** office timing before **4.30 pm.5)** Opening of Techno-Commercial Bid: **19.05.2026@ 4.31 pm. 6) https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in: DHFWS/2026-27/IND2422**

For more Information contact the following officers in office working hours.

Sd/- Chief Medical Officer
Sub Division Hospital
Gangavathi Dist Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/41/Deshpandepublicity/2026-27

PUBLIC NOTICE

The public are hereby inform that my client Sri Nachiappan S/o Sri R.M. Srinivasan, aged about 55 years, Residing at C/o. S. Rajamani, No.358/5/15, Hosur Road, Adugodi, Bengaluru-560 030 is the absolute owner and in possession of the immovable house property comprising of both commercial and residential units situated at No.437, Old No.570, bearing New Municipal No.10, situated at Sajjan Rao Road, Vishveshwarapuram, Bengaluru-560 004 measuring East to West 120 ft and North to South 30 ft totally comprising of 3600 Sq ft having two shops and open space as demarcated in Schedule-B of the Deed of Mortgage executed on 21-02-2014 vide registered Deed bearing Document No.CNP-1-09157/2013-14 stored in CD No. CNPD 106 vide dated 21-02-2014 along with an agreement for possession executed in the year 2014 and he is in continuous lawful and legal possession.

The public are hereby notified that the said property mentioned above belongs to Sri. Nachiappan and nobody should seek for purchase of the said property either by way of sale, mortgage, Agreement to Sale, Hypothecate or create any charge over the property and they are desisted from dealing with the said property and if they still continue to do so, they will be doing at their own risk and costs and the said property is not subjected to any litigation as Sri Nachiappan is in lawful and legal possession. No property deals are entertained.

One Sri Shankar S/o Nanjunda Shastri, has forged documents with respect to the above said property and got into litigation which is not binding on my client Sri Nachiappan or S.Rajamani or Late Uma Shastri.

The Public are warned not negotiate with the above said property. Dated this 17th day of April, 2026 at Bengaluru.

Advocate
Sd/- (A.Vijaya Sai)
No.215, 2nd Floor, Alankar Plaza,
K.G.Road, Bengaluru-560009

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

NOTIFICATION

Bengaluru, 30th March 2026

S.O. 1643(E) -- In the exercise of the powers conferred by clause (6) of section 20F and clause 7A of section 2 of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) the Ministry of Railway (South Western Railway, Construction Organization, Bengaluru Cantonment) hereby authorizes the officers mentioned in column (4) of the table below as 'Competent Authority' and the officers mentioned in column (5) of the table below as 'Arbitrator' to perform the functions as such authority under the said act with effect from date of publication of this notification in the official gazette in respect of Special Railway Projects mentioned in column (2) relating to district mentioned in column (3) of the table below for public purpose of execution, maintenance, management and operation of such Special Railway Project.

TABLE

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	District	Competent Authority	Arbitrator
1	2	3	4	5
1	Bypass at Hassan between Hassan - Mysuru & Hassan - Sakleshpur Lines	Hassan	Assistant Commissioner. Hassan Sub Division Hassan	Regional Commissioner - Mysuru
2	Additional Loop line at Hosa Agrahara (HAH) station.	Mysuru	Assistant Commissioner, Hunusur sub Division Hunsur	Regional Commissioner - Mysuru

No. W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727

Sd/-
Pardeep Puri, Chief Engineer, Construction - III, Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/35/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27

Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRAILWAYHQ | sw_railways

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Town Municipal Council, Gajendragad - 582114

Tq: Gajendragad, Dist: Gadag
Tel: 08381-262222 Email- itstaff_ulb_gajendragad@yahoo.in

Sl.No.TMC/CMIDP& 15TH FC/E-Tender/2026-27 Date:17.04.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Under the Karnataka Transparency Act **1999-2000** and as per e-procurement system for **1) 2025-26** work to be undertaken under Chief Minister's Infrastructure Development Project (CMIDP) grants to Gajendragad TMC being **Indent No. DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT56587 Rs. 304.00 Lakhs,** Tender Document KW-4, & **2) 2024-25** work to be undertaken under **15Th** FC being **Indent No. DMA/2026-27/OW/WORK_INDENT57499** for **Rs. 2.08 Lakhs** Tender Document KW-1, total cost of **02** work **Rs. 306.08 Lakhs,** tenders are invited by eligible contractors who are registered under PWD, for further details eligible contractors can go through the e-Procurement website: **https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in/kppp** or **www.gajendragadatown.mrc.gov.in/** and submit the tenders through online only as per mentioned date.

1) Tender submission last date and time through **KPP** Portal : **30-04-2026 4.00pm,**
2) Technical Bid opening **date: 02-05-2026 4.00pm,**

Sd/-
Chief Officer
TMC Gajendragad

DIPR/Gadag/29/Deshpandepublicity/2026-27

Sd/-
Administrator
TMC Gajendragad

Town Municipal Council, Hosadurga,

Chitradurga District.

ಫೋನ್ ನಂ. 08199–230221 E- ail:tmchosadurga@yahoo.com
Webist: hosadurgatown.gov.in

Sl No: TS/C.R-08/2026-27/10 Date 18.04.2026

e-Procurement Tender Notification

(Tender invited subject to Standard Tender Document Rules)

On the behalf of the Governor of Karnataka, Item wise tenders are invited through Karnataka Public Procurement portal as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement (Amendment) Act 2016 from eligible registered Contractor for below mentioned works sanctioned under AMRUTH 2.0 grant of Hosadurga TMC. Tenders can be downloaded from KPP Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) filled and uploaded up to 5.00 PM 02.05.2026. For further information visit the below mentioned websites www.hosadurgatown.mrc.gov.in and https:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in and is displayed on the Notice Board of the Office and further information can be obtained from the technical section during office hours.

Indent No. DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT56850
Amount put to tender (Excluding GST) (in Rs):-7421271-00
EMD (in Rupees)(in Rs):- 148425/- Period:- 09 Months

Sd/ Administrator,
TMC, Hosadurga.

Sd/-Chief Officer,
Town Municipal Council,
Hosadurga

DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/50/2026-27

BANGALORE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

T. Chowdaiah Road, Kumara Park West, Bengaluru - 560 020

No.: BDA/EE(Ele)/2025-26/62 Date: 18.04.2026

SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTICE

Short-Term Tender for electricity related works is invited by Bangalore Development Authority **for implementation of construction work of 66/11Kv G.I.S. Sub Station at Holagerahalli Residential Complex of BDA.** BDA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT242 **and work of installation of HPC Conductor replacing the present Coyote Conductor on the DG-4 Transmission Line connecting the 66/11 Kv Atturu Station for electrification of Dr. K. Shivaram Karanth Layout** (BDA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT241). Tender Schedule is as below.

Tender Schedule: (1) Date of availability of Tender Documents in e-portal: **18.04.2026 (2)** Last date and time for submission of Pre-Bid Queries: **23.04.2026, 11.30 Hrs. (3)** Date and time of Pre-Bid Meeting: **23.04.2026, 15.30 Hrs. (4)** Last date and time for submission of Tenders: **05.05.2026, 17.00 hrs. (5)** Date of opening Technical Bid of Tender: **06.05.2026 after 17.01 Hrs.**

Interested contractors can view further details on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and for more details it is requested to contact the Electrical Division of BDA during office hours.

Note: For any reason if there is delay in uploading the Tender Documents in e-portal, the revised/modified Tender Schedule will only be published in e-portal.

Helpline / Whatsapp: 9483166622 (24x7) @BDAOfficialGok

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Electrical),
Electrical Division, BDA, Bengaluru.

KARNATAKA STATE ELECTRONICS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.,

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
No 59, 1st Floor, Kumara Park West, Railway Parallel Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore - 560020.
+91-80-22225645 | info@keonics.com | www.keonics.in

No.: KSEDC/P047/2026-27 Date: 17.04.2026

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR SERVICES OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT TO KEONICS FOR THE PERIOD OF 1 YEAR

KEONICS (a Government of Karnataka undertaking) was established in 1976 to promote rapid growth of electronics in Karnataka. Currently, KEONICS is into Information Technology (IT) services, IT manpower services, IT upskilling services and IT infrastructure development. KEONICS is transforming its service delivery mechanism and process to offer premium IT services in the G2G space. KEONICS intends the services of Chartered Accountant through Expression of Interest.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Dates
1	Date of EOI Notification	19.04.2026
2	Last Date and Time to submit the EOI with relevant documents	04.05.2026 upto 4.00 PM

Eligibility Criteria for selection: 1) The candidate must be a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in India. **2)** The candidate should be a Chartered Accountant with minimum post qualification experience of 10 years including Government department or public sector undertaking or private organizations. **3)** The Candidate must be based in Bangalore. **4)** Age of the candidate shall not be more than 45 years as on the last date for submission of application. **5)** The service period will be initially for a period of one year which may be considered for extension based on the performance and necessity. **6)** The knowledge of Kannada in reading / writing / speaking is essential. **7)** The monthly remuneration/fees will be decided by the committee during the interview. **8)** Documents should be submitted regarding expertise in income tax, GST compliance, etc. **9)** KEONICS will consider expertise services while selection. **10**) The selection of the candidate will be on the recommendation of the committee under the chairmanship of the Managing Director.

Interested candidates for the above-mentioned position may submit their duly signed application along with the required documents by post to the Director (Finance), KEONICS, on or before **04th May 2026, up to 05:00 PM.** The application, along with all supporting documents, shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope and submitted before the stipulated date and time .

The EOI Notification, Eligibility Criteria, Scope of Work, Roles & Responsibilities, and Application Form can be downloaded from **www.keonics.in.**

DIPR/CP/226/SA/2026-27

Sd/- Director (Finance)

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Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback

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KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED

(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Shiggaon Lift Irrigation Division, K.C.D. Circle, Behind Ganapati Temple, Dasanakoppa Main Road, Dharwad-580 001. Ph No. 0836-2955347
E-mail id: eesliddwd@gmail.com

No.KNNL/SLID/DWD/PB-1/Shiggaon-Additional/Tender/2026-27/45 Dt : 18-04-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (3rd Call)
(THROUGH "*KPP-Portal*" ONLY)

Ref : 1. KNN/SLID/DWD/PB-1/Savanur-Additional/Tender/2025-26/884, Dated: 21-01-2026
2. KNNL/SLID/DWD/PB-1/Shiggaon-Additional/Tender/2025-26/968, Dated:16-02-2026

On behalf of the Managing Director Karnataka Neeravari Nigama Limited, Bangalore, the Executive Engineer, KNNL, SLI Division. Dharwad , Karnataka, invites 3 Nos of tenders on Turnkey basis in Two Cover System from the eligible registered Civil Contractor. The intending bidders can submit their bids as an individual /firm/company for the work of " Filling up of Additional 26 Tanks under Shiggaon Lift Irrigation Scheme"(Extension of Hotanhalli and Chandapura Tank Filling Scheme) (i) **Package–1** : Pumping Machinery and Construction of Sump Cum Pump House and Construction of substation & Construction of tapping point and erection of 11kV SC Line and O & M for 5 years (Amount put to tender Rs. **349.89** Lakhs) (ii) **Package–2** : Construction of Rising main for a length of 7.760 Km of HDPE Pipe for extension of Hothanahalli tank filling scheme and O & M for 5 years (Amount put to tender Rs. **413.27** Lakhs) (iii) **Package–3** : Construction of Bleeder 1,2,3,4,5,6,7 & 8 Distribution of HDPE and Construction of Gravity Distribution Network of Chandapura Tank Filling Scheme and O & M for 5 years (Amount put to tender **Rs. 420.86** Lakhs) through KPP- portal of Government of Karnataka. The blank tender documents can be obtained through website www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in from **24/04/2026**, 11.00 a.m. onwards and completed e-tendering documents can be submitted up to **08/05/2026**, 4.00 p.m. The Pre-Bid meeting is scheduled on **04/05/2026** at 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. in the office of Executive Engineer, KNNL, Shiggaon LI division, Dharwad. The technical bid will be opened on **11/05/2026** at 11.00 a.m. and financial bids of successful tenders will be opened on **15/05/2026** at 11.00 a.m. or after obtaining approval to the Technical Bid.

Any Addendum/Corrigendum shall be published in the KPP-portal only. The undersigned reserves the right to postpone, accept, reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/- (Manjunath.B.)
Executive Engineer, KNNL,
SLI DIVISION, DHARWAD

DIPR/DWD/KSMCA/70/2026-27

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT DIVISION, VIJAYAPUR.

I.F.T.No:EE/PWD/VJP/PB/Different-Heads/2026-27/132
Dated:17.04.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(E-Procurement)

The- **Executive Engineer, Public Works Dept. Division, Vijayapur** Invites tender from eligible tenderers (registered in Public Works Department) Total 08 work, As per standard bid documents KW- 3 & 4 with Different Head Of Account costing of Maximum And Minimum amount for Rs. 186.00 Lakhs & 112.00 Lakhs, the EMD Maximum And Minimum amount of Rs. 2,79,000/- & Rs. 1,68,000/-. For the works. For the above works G.S.T shall not be paid in the extended period of Contract for which the contractor alone is responsible for delay as determined by the authority while granting the extension of time. The calendar events of tenders, dates are fixed as follows (1) Pre-Bid Meeting for Contractors. Date-27.04-2026 at 11:00 AM (2) Last Date for Receipt of Tenders Date-04.05.2026 upto 1:30 PM. (3) Opening of Technical Bid Date-05.05.2026 at 1:31 PM. (4) Opening of Financial Bid Date-06.05.2026 at 11.00 AM On words Clause-3 Conditions of Standard Bid Document may be seen in Departmental Website i.e "www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in" and for more information may contact help desk Bangalore (Phone No. 9240214000 & 9240214001) or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Vijayapur

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/44/ಕೆಎಸ್.ಎಂಸಿಎ/2026–27

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರ್,
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹಬ್ಬುವಾಡಾ–ಕಾರವಾರ, ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–581301.

ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 08382–228935 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 229735 E-mail: eerdwsd.uk@gmail.com

ಸಂ: ಕಾನಿಇಂ/ಗ್ರಾಕುನಿ&ನೈವಿ/ಕಾರವಾರ/PMC/ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ/2026–27/79 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18/04/2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (KPP Portal ಮೂಲಕ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಉತ್ತರ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಮತ್ತು ನೈರ್ಮಲ್ಯ ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗಗಳ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು ಸರಬರಾಜು ಯೋಜನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನಗೊಳಿಸಲು ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕವಾಗಿ ಒಂದು ವರ್ಷದ (12 ತಿಂಗಳು) ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಅಗತ್ಯ ತಾಂತ್ರೀಕ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು **Project Manahement Consultancy (PMC)** ಮೂಲಕ ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ–1999 ಹಾಗೂ ನಿಯಮ–2000 ರಂತೆ ತತ್ಬಂಧ ಕಾಲಕಾಲಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾದ ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ ಆದೇಶಗಳನ್ವಯ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು **KPP** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದೆ. ಗ್ರಾ.ಕು.ನೀ. & ನೈ. ಇಲಾಖೆಯಡಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ / ಎಂಪಾನೆಲ್ಡ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ/ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಗಳು ಅಥವಾ ಸಕ್ಷಮ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಮಾನವ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ /ಏಜನ್ಸಿಗಳಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಗಳಂತೆ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in KPP** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಿದಂತೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಇನ್ನಿತರೆ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಖಚಿತಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸುವುದು. ವಿವರ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿವೆ.

ವಿವರ: **INDENT NUMBER: RWSSD/2026-27/SE0873**

(1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು **KPP** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡೌನಲೋಡ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **19/04/2026** ರಿಂದ **28/04/2026** ರ **16.30** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ **(2)** ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು **KPP** ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **28/04/2026** ರ **16.30** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ **(3)** ಟೆಂಡರಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **29/04/2026** ರಂದು **17.00** ಗಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರ. ಉಳಿದ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಗ್ರಾ. ಕು. ನೀ. ಮತ್ತು ನೈ. ವಿಭಾಗ,
ಕಾರವಾರ (ಉ. ಕ. ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ)

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/60/26-27 dt.18.04.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client Mr. H. Srinivas S/o. Mr. H. Krishna is the absolute owner of the Schedule property and he had lost (1) ICICI Bank NOC for clearing the home loan, (2) Sale Agreement dated 09/02/2006, (3) Sale Deed dated 26/03/2007, Document bearing No. KRI-1-35333-2006-07 executed by M/s. Mitra Estates and M/s. Reddy Structures Pvt Ltd., while shifting the house and my client had filed a complaint in respect of this to Bengaluru City Police Unit immediately after coming this to his knowledge.

Any person/s having found the same may kindly be returned to the undersigned or to the jurisdictional police or undersigned within 14 days from the date of this publication and if any person misusing the original one shall be prosecuted and if anyone entering into any transaction without my client's knowledge with any third party our client shall not be responsible for the same.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Apartment No. 417 on Third Floor measuring Super Built Area of 1325 Sq.Ft in the building MAHAVEER REGAL, including common area with One Car Parking Slot bearing No. 417, together with 0.79% (486 Sq.Ft) of Undivided share in the land bearing Sy.No.181/4, situated in Hoodi Village, K.R.Pura Hobli, Bengaluru East Taluk and bounded by;

East by: Passage **West by:** Set Back **North by:** Flat No. 415 **South by:** Set Back

Sd/- AKHILA & Associates (Advocates)
No.83, 1st Floor, Cropexium,
Service Road, Karthiknagar,
Doddanekkundi, Marathahalli,
Bangalore-560037. Ph. 9741300393

Government of Karnataka

BIDAR INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, BIDAR

(Autonomous Institution of Govt. Karnataka)
Affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences, Karnataka, Bangalore & Recognized by Govt. of India, New Delhi
Phone: 08482 - 228366 & Fax No: 08482 - 240322 Website: www.bimsbidar.karnataka.gov.in & E-mail Id: directorbrimsbidar2007@gmail.com

No : Brims/Tender/News Paper/CR- /2026-27 Date : 18-04-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Bidar Institute of Medical Sciences, Teaching Hospital, Bidar Invites e-tender for the Supply of Tablets, Injections, Disposables and Liquid ointments and powders, IV Fluids & Sutures and Chemicals & Reagents BRIMS BIDAR interested bidder can view, download and apply through ktpp portal www.kppp.karnataka.gov only for more information about can be contact/view at our website www.bimsbidar.karnataka.gov.in Last date for submission of tender through ktpp portal is 15-05-2026 at the specified in e-tender.

1) **Name of the Tender**: SUPPLY OF TABLETS TO BRIMS BIDAR FOR THE YEAR 2026-27, **Tender Indent No:** DME/2026-27/IND2249, **E.M.D:** 2,00,000.00, 2) **Name of the Tender**: SUPPLY OF INJECTIONS TO BRIMS BIDAR FOR THE YEAR 2026-27, **Tender Indent No:** DME/2026-27/IND2252, **E.M.D:** 2,00,000.00, 3)**Name of the Tender**: SUPPLY OF DISPOSABLES TO BRIMS BIDAR FOR THE YEAR 2026-27,**Tender Indent No:** DME/2026-27/IND2254, **E.M.D:** 2,00,000.00, 4)**Name of the Tender**: SUPPLY OF LIQUID OINTMENTS & POWDERS TO BRIMS BIDAR FOR THE YEAR 2026-27,**Tender Indent No:** DME/2026-27/IND2259, **E.M.D:** 2,00,000.00, 5)**Name of the Tender**: SUPPLY OF IV FLUIDS & SUTURES TO BRIMS BIDAR FOR THE YEAR 2026-27,**Tender Indent No:** DME/2026-27/IND2264,**E.M.D** 2,00,000.00, 6)**Name of the Tender**:SUPPLY OF CHEMICALS & REAGENTS TO BRIMS BIDAR FOR THE YEAR 2026-27,**Tender Indent No:** DME/2026-27/IND2260,**E.M.D::**2,00,000.00

Note : For further information about tender please contact Director Brims Bidar office, and if any further changes in tender will be published in KPPP website only.

Sd/- DIRECTOR
Bidar Institute Of Medical Sciences,Bidar

DIPR/Bidar/15/KSMC&A/2026-27

BENGALURU WEST CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Special Division, R.R.Nagara Zone-1, No.301, 2nd Floor, Near BEML Complex, 3rd Stage, BEML Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagara, Bengaluru-560 098.

No: BBMP/EE/SD/RRNZ-1/TEND/01/2025-26/CALL-3 Date: 19.04.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Special Division, R.R.Nagara Zone-1, invites tenders from eligible bidders for the work detailed in table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Construction and Renovation of Compound Wall at Kariobanahalli Burial Ground in Ward No.40 at Yeshwanthapura. BWCC/2025-26/OW/WORK INDENT244/CALL-3. **Estimated Amount: Rs.6.65 Lakhs. EMD: Rs. 13,300/-. Period for completion of work:** 2 Months **Eligible Contractor:** As per KTPP Act.

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal of GOK **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 21.04.2026 onwards.** 2) Last date & time for Queries: **22.04.2026 upto 3.00 p.m.** (3) Last date for submission of tender document: **28.04.2026 upto 4.30 p.m.** (4) Opening of Technical Bid: **29.04.2026 at 5.00 p.m.** (5) Opening of Financial Bid: Will be intimated to the technically qualified bidders. In the event of the specified date of tender opening being declared a holiday for the employer, the tenders will be opened at the appointed time and location on the Next Working Day.

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit KPP Portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Special Division, R.R.Nagara Zone-1,
Bengaluru West City Corporation

BENGALURU-MYSURU INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHORITY

No.5, 2nd Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru - 560009.
Phone: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com

No:BMICAPA/CLU-02/124/2025-26 Date: 18.04.2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

(UNDER SEC 14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Sri **Devarajulu S/o Late J.Govindaswamy Naidu** has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use from **"Agriculture" Zone to "Residential"** purpose pertaining to Sy.No:15/13 extent of 02 Acre-06Guntas of Kethiganahalli Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara Taluk, Bengaluru South District under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. The foresaid land is reserved for **Agriculture zone** in approved Master plan. Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1) By developing the layout in the above said land, the general public will get the sites for reasonable price.

2) During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for Local labourers.

3) Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Layout in the above said lands.

4) By development of planned layout, the public are benefitted with the civic amenities such as good roads, UGD, electrical facilities and parks etc.

Objections, if any, are invited from the public, any person may file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICAPA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from this notice. Any objections received after stipulated time will not be considered.

Sd/- Member Secretary,
BMICAPA, Bangalore.

DIPR/CP/JA/249/2026-27

Third language row: Minister says govt. has filed review petition

I will discuss this matter with CM Siddaramaiah. We have plans A and B and will make an appropriate decision soon. Therefore, parents and students need not worry: Madhu Bangarappa

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Madhu Bangarappa
K. MURALI KUMAR

Minister for School Education and Literacy Madhu Bangarappa told media-persons on Saturday that the State government had filed a review petition in the High Court of Karnataka, against a single Judge Bench directive to award marks and not grades for third language papers in SSLC examination.

Interestingly, before the single Judge Bench that issued the direction, it was the State government that said it would follow the existing system of awarding marks for third language papers during evaluation of answer sheets of the recently held SSLC exam, and not grades as was proposed midway through the exam. Mr. Bangarappa was silent on this aspect on Saturday. The Minister said that the review petition would likely come up for hearing on Tuesday. "I will discuss this matter with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. We have plans A and B and will make an appropriate decision soon. Therefore, parents and students need not worry. We have issued a draft notification on the issue of the third language, and a government order will be issued before the announcement of results," he said, assuring students and parents that there would be no delay in the announcement of SSLC results.

Furthermore, he said that the court had not asked them to re-examine the decision. "The court has asked to follow the rule that was in force during the 2025 exams, while hearing a particular petition filed by a few students and teachers," the Minister said.

Grace marks

Meanwhile, the Associated Management of Schools in Karnataka (KAMS) has demanded that all students be awarded eight grace marks for third language subjects in the recently held SSLC examinations, if they are marked and not graded.

"Announcing a decision to switch from marks to grades for third language subjects four days before the exams created confusion among students. Due to this, most students did not give importance to the third language exams. As some students took the exams lightly because the government announced grades instead of marks, they are now under stress and fear failing to clear the paper, as the court has now directed that the previous year's model should be followed," the association stated in its petition.

Complaint over impersonation of GBA chief

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Iranna Bhorawat, Public Relations Officer of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), on Wednesday filed a complaint at the Central Division Cyber Crime Police Station accusing unidentified persons of impersonating the Chief Commissioner and sending messages to the officials, creating confusion.

Similar incident

This comes days after the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) Commissioner Manivannan P. lodged a similar complaint of impersonation on WhatsApp.

According to the latest complaint, unidentified individuals have been misusing the name, designation, and photograph of the GBA Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao to create a fake WhatsApp account.

The incident reportedly began on April 12, when the accused used an international mobile number to send messages to public relations officers, technical advisers, staff members, and several other officials falsely claiming to be the Chief Commissioner.

The fraudsters are attempting to deceive recipients by exploiting the identity and reputation of the senior official, the complaint stated, arguing such actions pose a serious risk of misinformation, fraud, and misuse of authority.

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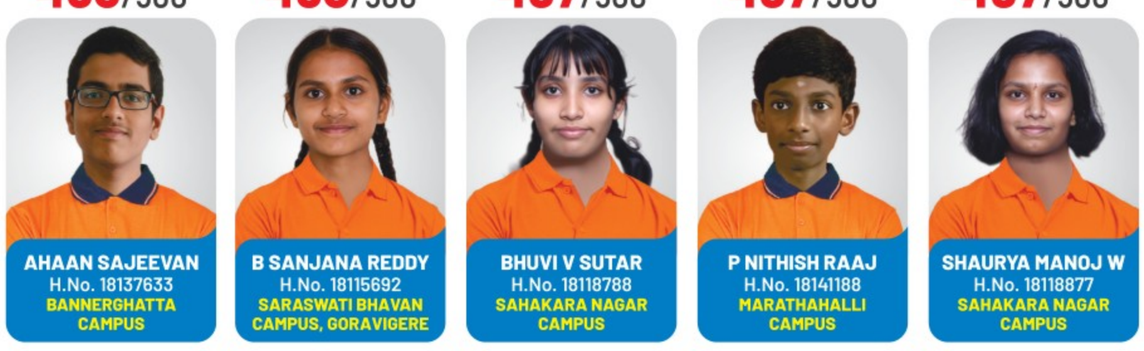
NARAYANA SCHOOLS DOMINATE
CBSE CLASS X 2026



Narayana Schools have once again delivered outstanding results in the CBSE Class 10 Board Examinations 2026, with students across Bengaluru achieving near-perfect scores and reinforcing a consistent record of academic excellence.

Leading the cohort are **Ahaan Sajeevan (498/500) and Sanjana Reddy (498/500), followed by Bhuvi Veerendra Sutar, P. Nithish Raaj, and Shaurya Manoj Wattamwar (497/500 each)**. These results are a strong reflection of Narayana's structured and result-oriented academic system.

Behind these results is an integrated learning approach that combines **early foundation building, continuous assessments, and personalised mentorship**. Students are trained not just to prepare, but to improve consistently through disciplined practise and clear conceptual understanding.

Sharing insights from their preparation journeys, students highlighted the impact of Narayana's academic framework.

Sanjana Reddy pointed to the role of Daily Practice Tests, revision cycles, and a disciplined environment in improving accuracy and maintaining consistency.

Bhuvi Veerendra Sutar credited structured mentorship, regular assessments, and detailed error analysis for sharpening her focus and enabling steady improvement.

Nithish Raaj emphasised that consistent practice, strong foundational learning, and continuous teacher support helped him stay disciplined and confident.

Shaurya Manoj Wattamwar noted that Narayana's focus on conceptual clarity and its "Mistake to Mastery" approach helped her move beyond memorisation and build confidence.

Ahaan Sajeevan highlighted how rigorous testing, detailed feedback, and mentorship helped transform weaknesses into strengths.

> *"My result feels surreal, but it's built on consistent effort and Narayana's system. The eTechno programme's rigorous tests, and detailed feedback turned weaknesses into strengths. Teacher mentorship and my parents' support kept me confident throughout."*- Ahaan Sajeevan.

This consistent performance underscores the strength of Narayana's system-where every **test becomes feedback, every mistake becomes learning, and every student progresses with clarity and confidence.**

Congratulating the students, Dr. Sindhura Narayana, Director of Narayana Educational Institutions, said:

"These exceptional results reflect not just the hard work of our students, but also the strength of our academic system. We are proud to nurture young minds who are not only exam-ready but future-ready too."

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GBA releases final electoral rolls; voter count rises by over 2,800

The total electorate, as per the final rolls, is 88,95,361 — 45,71,169 male, 43,22,557 female, and 1,635 in the other category

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) on Saturday published the final electoral rolls for 369 wards across five city corporations, with the updated list reflecting an increase of 2,833 voters compared to the revised draft electoral rolls released on March 9.

The total electorate, as per the final rolls, is 88,95,361.

The final rolls record 45,71,169 male voters, 43,22,557 female voters and 1,635 voters in the other category, with a total of 8,023 polling stations across the five corporations.

The Bengaluru West City Corporation accounts for the highest number of voters at 27,28,933, followed by the North corporation at 19,54,504. The Bengaluru East, with the lowest, has 10,41,454 voters. The ward-level data shows that Ward No. 51, Subramanyapura in Bengaluru South, continues to have the highest number of voters at 54,026, while Ward No. 16, Kottur, in Bengaluru East, has the lowest at 10,940 voters.

Number of voters in the final electoral rolls

Corporations	Wards	Polling booths	Male voters	Female voters	Other voters	Total
Central	63	1,303	7,26,476	6,98,967	303	14,25,746
North	72	1,708	9,94,421	9,59,702	381	19,54,504
South	72	1,611	9,03,402	8,41,097	225	17,44,724
East	50	920	5,49,200	4,91,996	258	10,41,454
West	112	2,481	13,97,670	13,30,795	468	27,28,933
Total	369	8,023	45,711,69	43,225,57	1,635	88,953,61

Source: Greater Bengaluru Authority

Before releasing the final list, the GBA sought two extensions from the State Election Commission to the deadline for filing claims and objections after receiving multiple complaints. FILE PHOTO

Before releasing the final list, the GBA sought two extensions from the State Election Commission to the deadline for filing claims and objections after receiving multiple complaints.

In total, the window for submitting objections and claims remained open for 21 days.

Addressing the media, GBA Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao, said the revision exercise had been undertaken following complaints from the public and political parties about names of voters not appearing in the wards where they reside.

There are a total of 8,023 polling stations across the five corporations

He added that the final electoral rolls would be made available online, allowing voters to verify their names using EPIC numbers or other details. Helplines have also been set up across the five corporations to assist voters.

Mr. Rao further added that voters whose names were not included in the final list could still be accommodated through supplementary rolls and said all efforts have been made to ensure an error-free electoral roll.

National Census: City corporations warn absentees of strict action

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

GBA Officials during the National Census-2027 in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Facing widespread absenteeism in the ongoing National Census-2027 exercise, city corporations under the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) have issued warnings to enumerators and supervisors, directing them to immediately report to duty, noting that failure to comply will lead to strict legal and disciplinary action under the Census Act, 1948.

Across corporations, officials said thousands of enumerators and supervisors had already been appointed and trained, but a section of staff either skipped training or failed to report to their assigned census blocks.

In East City Corporation, Commissioner D.S. Ramesh said a final warning has been given, adding that show-cause notices had already been served on those absent from training. He directed both those who skipped training and those who failed to report after attending it to immediately resume duties.

North City Corporation Commissioner Pommala Sunil Kumar said show-cause notices had been issued to 527 enumerators who failed to report for duty, with explanations sought within a deadline. He added that criminal cases under the Census Act, along with FIRs, could be filed if no valid response is received. Dies-non orders (unauthorised absence which leads to no work, no pay) have already been issued against 53 enumerators who failed to respond to earlier notices.

In the Central City Corporation, Commissioner P. Rajendra Cholan said notices were issued to absentees, and warned that continued absence would attract penalties.

From Page One

Govt. seeks 3 months more to hold GBA polls

Adding to the pressure, government workers are also expected to be deployed for SSLC and II PUC supplementary examinations during May and June, again constraining manpower.

The department noted that these overlapping commitments leave little scope to carry out key election preparations like booth-level verification and rationalisation, training of polling Personnel, logistics planning, coordination with law and order agencies, and public outreach. It also highlighted the complexity of conducting elections in a rapidly expanding urban region like Bengaluru, where migration and peri-urban growth require intensive field verification to ensure that electoral rolls are accurate and inclusive.

Citing these constraints, the department has requested that the election timeline be extended till September 30, maintaining that the additional time would allow completion of statutory exercises and ensure that elections are conducted in a prepared and legally robust manner.

Karnataka State Election Commissioner G.S. Sangreshi was not available for comment.

Following complaints from apartment owners, city property tax collection form to be simplified

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The concerns stem from the requirement for apartment complexes to specify how their waste is managed and how much waste is generated across categories such as wet, dry, and sanitary

Amid complaints from residents of multi-storey apartments that property tax payment has created confusion due to a new set of questions related to waste management, GBA chief M. Maheshwar Rao announced that the process would be simplified.

Mr. Rao acknowledged the complaints, stating that the system, which was intended to enable seamless transactions, had inadvertently created confusion. "I have received representations, and understood the problem. It is a thorough process with genuine concerns raised from apartment complexes. We will look into it and simplify it," he said.

The concerns stem from the requirement for apartment complexes, classified as bulk waste generators, to specify how their waste is managed and how much waste is generated across categories such as wet, dry, and sanitary.

Mr. Rao also spoke about the deployment of sweeping machines and towing vehicles. He said

GBA chief acknowledges that the system, intended to enable seamless transactions, had inadvertently created confusion

towing operations, which have begun in a few corporations, would be taken up in the GBA limits from next week.

Pointing to the challenges faced by pourakarmikas, including heavy workload and traffic conditions, he said mechanised sweeping was the only answer, and that corporations would move towards deploying such machines.

He added that existing machines were no longer as effective as they were five years ago, and that efforts are under way to work out an improved mechanism.

'Digital arrest': Homemaker loses ₹5 lakh

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 58-year-old homemaker from Thanisandra has fallen victim to a cyber fraud involving "digital arrest", in which fraudsters impersonated police officers and coerced the victim into transferring money under threat of arrest.

The victim lodged a complaint with the East Division Cyber Crime Police on April 16 after she was allegedly tricked into transferring ₹5 lakh from her bank account. According to the complainant, the incident began on April 14 when she received a voice call from a mobile number. The caller introduced himself as an officer from the Mumbai Police and claimed that her documents were linked to a fraud case registered in Mumbai.

The following day around 9.30 a.m., she received a WhatsApp video call from another number. The fraudsters allegedly forced her to remain on the video call for nearly three to four hours, continuously threatening her with immediate arrest and legal action. Under sustained pressure, the victim was instructed to transfer ₹5,00,000 from her account to an account held in the name of Govindbhai Gohil. The accused allegedly claimed that her documents were involved in money laundering, extortion, and other illegal activities.

The fraudsters allegedly forced her to remain on the video call for nearly three to four hours, continuously threatening her

The police have registered a case and initiated an investigation into the cyber fraud network.

Collect ₹1.09 cr. from college for polluting waterbody: KSPCB

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Karnataka State Pollution Control Board's office in Mangaluru has recommended to the Board's head office in Bengaluru to collect ₹1.09 crore from Excel Pre-University College, Guruvayanakere, Dakshina Kannada, as 'environmental compensation' for polluting the nearby huge waterbody called Guruvayanakere, according to an environmental officer of the Board.

The official told the Karnataka Development Programme review committee meeting presided over by Dinesh Gundu Rao, Minister in-charge of Dakshina Kannada, on Saturday that when the lake's water quality was tested, the Board found its standard deteriorating from B to D category. When checked, the Board found that it was due to the college letting out its untreated sewage into the waterbody. The environmental officer said that the Mangaluru office has recommended to the Board to take steps for the closure of the college as it has not obtained the clearance of the Board before opening the college. The official said that the education institution has set up a sewage treatment plant (STP). But its processing capacity is low and hence the entire sewage generated is not being treated.

The environmental officer said that the Board found dead fish in the waterbody on March 16 and it recommended for action against the education institution, a unit of Infinity Learning Foundation, on March 17.

Earlier, raising the matter in the meeting, Harish Poonja, MLA, Belthangady, questioned the KSPCB regarding the action taken against the college for polluting the waterbody.

Mr. Poonja claimed that senior officials of the Department of School Education and Literacy (Pre-University) are not being allowed inside the premises of the institution.

Three cases

The MLA said that three different cases (First Information Reports) have been filed against the institution.

The Minister then directed the Board to ensure that the educational institution did not discharge untreated sewage to the waterbody.

'40,000 RTI appeals disposed of in a year'

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

B. Venkat Singh

The State Information Commission has disposed of a record 40,000 Right to Information (RTI) appeal cases in the past one year, the highest in India, said B. Venkat Singh, Commissioner of the Kalaburagi Bench of the commission.

He inaugurated a workshop on the RTI Act organised by the State Information Commission (Kalaburagi Bench) and the district administration at the Deputy Commissioner's office in Kalaburagi on Saturday for district, taluk, and gram panchayat panchayat development officers.

Mr. Singh said the commission is committed to providing information to people, and added that the disposal of cases had gained further momentum after the appointment of new Commissioners in October 2025.

"After assuming charge at the Kalaburagi Bench, around 1,187 appeal cases have been disposed of within 90 days, including several pending for five to six years," he said. He noted that in certain cases, penalties had been imposed on officials for failing to provide information, but the fines were not being deducted from their salaries. He urged Deputy Commissioners to take note of the issue and issue necessary directions to ensure compliance.

He traced the history of the law, noting that similar legislation dates back to 1766 in Sweden, and was later adopted in Finland, the United States, the United Kingdom, Japan, and in India in 2005.Addressing a press conference later in the day, Mr. Singh said Public Information Officers have been instructed to proactively disclose departmental information in accordance with Sections 4(1)(a) and 4(1)(b) of the RTI Act.

He said that if departments voluntarily place information in the public domain, the number of RTI applications would come down significantly.

He pointed out that some individuals were misusing the RTI Act without any larger public interest, causing unnecessary inconvenience to officials. "Twenty-six such persons across Karnataka have been barred from filing RTI applications, including some from the Kalaburagi division," he said.

2 killed after cement board falls on them

The Hindu Bureau
YADGIR

Two children were killed and five others suffered severe injuries after the cement board of a community hall fell on them at Bail Merched village of Manvi taluk in Raichur district.

The incident occurred at around 11.30 p.m. on Friday.

The deceased have been identified as Vishwanath Ramalinga Naik, 9, and Sanvita Peddayya Naik, 2.

The cement board (arch) fell on them owing to strong winds, a thunderstorm, and lightning while they were sitting down and watching an open drama, the FIR said.

All the injured persons have been shifted to a local hospital for treatment.

The Manvi police have registered an unnatural death report.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. L7255141D Dated: 10.04.2026
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items:

Tender No.	Description in Brief
L7255141D	Design, manufacture, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of EOT (Electric Overhead Travelling Cranes) of Capacity 15/5T as per the specification attached in Annexure A with CAMC for 5 years after completion of warranty period. **(Qty: 01 No.)**

Last date for Submission/Tender Due on:
Upto 10:30 Hrs. on 04.05.2026
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/41/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2026-27
Senior Divisional Materials Manager, Hubballi
Download the **RailOne** app for easy ticket booking, PNR status, and more railway services.
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PUBLIC NOTICE
My client has entered into an agreement of sale to purchase the Schedule Property from **1.Smt. Sowmya A Gouda, D/o.Sri.I.Anne Gowda, W/o Sri. Mahesh Kiran Paduvallamarahalli Gurusiddappa,** Aged about 38 years, Residing at No.14/1-2, Multi sapphire Apartment, No.404, 1st main road, Suddagunte Palya, Bengaluru- 560029, Presently residing at No.655, Promenade Apt 4108, Irving TX-75039, United States of America, Passport No- W1151867, Represented by her mother and GPA holder Smt. M.P. Jyothi, W/o. Sri. I Anne Gowda, and 2.Sri.I Anne Gowda, S/o.Erappa, Aged about 71 years, Residing at No.14/1-2, Multi sapphire Apartment, No.404, 1st main road, Suddagunte Palya, Bengaluru- 560029,
Any person/s having any manner of claims/objections for the proposed purchase of the Schedule Property, may lodge their claim/s, objection/s, with the undersigned, with documentary evidence within Fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication. Any claims/ objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the schedule property as if there are no claims/ objections.
SCHEDULE -PROPERTY: ALL THAT PIECE AND PARCEL OF the property being vacant site bearing no.13(old site no.3, VP khata no.103), situated at 4th A cross, Gundappa Reddy layout, Cholanayakanahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Bengaluru north taluk, measuring east to west 40 feet north to south 65 feet, totally measuring 2600 sq ft, having EPID no-9673460605 and bounded on: **East** : Property bearing no.2 (New no.1/1) Sujayalaxmi's property, **West** : Property bearing no.4 (Lotus Classic apartments) **North**: 30 Feet Road., **South** : Property of Sri Basappa Reddy.
Y.S.H.Reddy, Advocate, No.503, 1st Floor, Sai Leela Suites, No.1, 1st Main Road, Parallel to 80 Feet Road, H.M.T.Layout, R.T.Nagar, Bengaluru-560 032.

Domestic tourism sees fourfold rise, crosses 30 cr. visitors post pandemic

The State has consistently ranked among the top three in the country for domestic tourist arrivals. Dakshina Kannada and Udupi have each attracted over 5 crore visitors, says Tourism Minister

Rishita Khanna
BENGALURU

With an increase of 22.17 crore tourists, Karnataka has recorded a sharp post-pandemic surge in overall footfall, with domestic tourism, in particular, witnessing a fourfold rise.

In 2021, Karnataka recorded 7.83 crore tourist visits, including 7.97 crore domestic and 0.71 lakh foreign visitors. By 2025, this jumped sharply to 30.21 crore total visits in the State.

A view of the Virupaksha Temple at Hampi in Vijayanagara district of Karnataka. It is one of the UNESCO World Heritage sites in the State. K. MURALI KUMAR

The annual footfall for tourists to Karnataka

Year	Total visits	Domestic	Foreign
2021	7.83 crore	7.97 crore	0.71 lakh
2022	18.78 crore	18.77 crore	0.90 lakh
2023	27.85 crore	27.82 crore	3.80 lakh
2024	31.09 crore	31.03 crore	5.12 lakh
2025	30.21 crore	30.14 crore	4.37 lakh

Districts seeing high growth

- **Coastal Karnataka:** Dakshina Kannada and Udupi
- **Gadag:** Lakkundi and Kappatagudda
- **Kodagu:** Coffee tourism, eco-tourism, and homestays
- **Belagavi**

Shakti scheme

"Among other factors, the Shakti scheme is a key reason for the sharp rise in domestic travel within the State," Tourism, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said during an exclusive interaction with *The Hindu*. He acknowledged that growth in the arrival of foreign tourists has not been significant, but noted that the numbers, which had dropped to 71,000 in 2021, have now stabilised at 4.37 lakh in 2025.

Mr. Patil added that the State has consistently ranked among the top three in the country for domestic tourist arrivals. "Coastal Karnataka districts, particularly Dakshina Kannada and Udupi, have each attracted over 5 crore visitors, and more steps will be taken for the development of tourism in the region," he said.

The Minister noted that Gadag has recorded a 274% increase since 2019, with Lakkundi and Kappatagudda drawing growing interest. Kodagu, due to an increasing number of coffee estates, eco-tourism and homestays, has also seen around 200% growth over the same period.

Proposals

Highlighting that the government is preparing proposals to seek UNESCO World Heritage status for Shravanabelagola, Lakkundi and Hire Benakal, adding to the State's existing four World Heritage sites, Mr. Patil said the recognition is expected to boost tourism. He, however, acknowledged that increased visitor numbers could put pressure on civic amenities, and said the government would put in place measures to manage overtourism.

These include carrying capacity frameworks, daily visitor caps, zero-emission transport and upgrading waste management systems. To avoid resistance, he said early consultations would be held with local communities to ensure stakeholders are part of the tourism value chain. Officials from the Department of Tourism added that efforts are also under way to encourage business travellers to extend their visits for leisure to boost foreign tourist footfall.

KCCD

They also pointed to the recent launch of the Karnataka Centre for Cultural Diplomacy (KCCD). The KCCD is a first-of-its-kind initiative aimed at using State's culture as a bridge between the State and the world. The centre has been established to promote art, heritage, and a creative economy globally.

Until I am here, casinos will not come up in State: Patil

We are not focusing on building five-star or luxury facilities. We are concentrating on improving basic amenities at key pilgrimage centres like Saundatti Yellamma Temple, says Tourism Minister

INTERVIEW

H.K. Patil

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

H.K. Patil

Despite tourist footfalls in the State seeing a fourfold increase since the pandemic, the arrivals of foreign tourists remain low, a concern for many years now. In an exclusive chat with *The Hindu*, Tourism Minister H.K. Patil opened up on the vision and future plans.

Edited excerpts from the conversation:

The Hindu: Despite Karnataka having major heritage sites like Hampi and Badami Cave Temples, why is foreign tourist footfall still limited? Is it due to a lack of awareness or infrastructure?

H.K. Patil: A major challenge is air connectivity. While domestic tourist numbers are quite healthy, international travellers usually look for direct and convenient access. At present, reaching these sites often involves travelling 150 to 200 km after landing, as none of them have nearby air connectivity. Because of this, we have failed to attract as many foreign tourists as we could, despite the global significance of these sites. It's not a question of interest. These destinations have not been promoted enough internationally, and there is a gap in well-prepared publicity material that can effectively showcase their importance to a global audience. We are trying to fill this gap now.

So, what is the hope for ensuring connectivity to these kinds of places?

Improving connectivity will require support from the Union government. At the State level, we are exploring options like introducing seaplane services to improve access to key sites. Locations have already been identified, including areas near Hampi and Lakkundi. We are currently studying the feasibility of these projects and plan to run pilot operations for about a year. Discussions are under way with agencies that have shown interest in operating these services.

The Golden Chariot was launched to improve connectivity to heritage sites, but it has not been running regularly. Is that due to a lack of demand or interest?

The Golden Chariot is actually a very good project, though it is expensive. For nearly five to six years, before we started it again, the train was not operational and was lying idle in a workshop. We have now revived it in coordination with IRCTC, and it has resumed operations. One of the key challenges was the high-wheeling charges. While the Union government has been supportive of tourism in principle, wheeling costs had gone up significantly, making operations unviable at one point. However, with continuous coordination and discussions, we have been able to bring those charges down to some extent, which has helped restart the service.

There have been proposals to introduce casinos as part of coastal tourism development, given their revenue potential. What is your stand on this?

As long as I am here, casinos will not come up. Casinos can generate significant revenue but tourism should not be built around gambling or betting, whatever name you give it. That is not the direction we want to take. Tourism, in my view, should be about education, enlightenment and meaningful leisure. The government has now fully awakened. We are not focusing on building five-star or luxury facilities. We are concentrating on improving basic amenities at key pilgrimage centres like Saundatti Yellamma Temple. In fact, temples have supported tourism more than the government so far. For instance, Saundatti Yellamma has so far witnessed an annual footfall of 1.25 crore, double than what Mysuru sees. We will be coming up with facilities like Dasoha Bhavanas for pilgrims. I am also planning to have 10 dormitories built that can accommodate 300 to 400 people, with more toilets and basic facilities. This is for students who visit temples, Mutts and other heritage sites as part of their educational trips. These are being designed especially for children and ordinary tourists, who we believe are real travellers.

Retired judge to probe financial irregularities at KU

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has appointed a retired High Court judge to inquire into the allegations of misappropriation and misuse of grants meant for smart class facilities for research students in Kuvempu University. The notification, issued by the Governor's Secretariat on Saturday, appointed Justice R. Gururajan, a former Judge of the Karnataka High Court, as a one-man fact-finding committee.

The notification stated that the State government had sanctioned ₹5 crore in January 2022 for providing smart class facilities to research scholars at Kuvempu University, Shivamogga, following a request from the university's Vice-Chancellor. The Commissioner of the Social Welfare Department released ₹4.25 crore between February 2022 and April 2023 for the facility, under the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan/Tribal Sub-Plan (SCSP/TSP).

Multiple complaints were received against the then Vice-Chancellor, Registrar (Evaluation), and the Director of Distance Education regarding alleged irregularities in the utilisation of these SCSP/TSP funds. An earlier inquiry committee headed by Ravindranath H.B. had concluded that the misuse of grants had been proven and held the officials concerned collectively accountable, it stated. Acting on a proposal from the State government, the Governor has now ordered a fresh inquiry.

Team spirit

Fans mode on: The supporters of Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) cheering for their team during the IPL 2026 match between RCB and Delhi Capitals, at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, APR. 19	
RISE 06:05	SET 18:33
RISE 07:18	SET 20:36
MONDAY, APR. 20	
RISE 06:04	SET 18:33
RISE 08:16	SET 21:43
TUESDAY, APR. 21	
RISE 06:04	SET 18:33
RISE 09:19	SET 22:49

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	34	15
Mysuru	36	21
Bengaluru	36	24

Bengaluru Today
36°C The weather will be dry. Day will be hot and uneasy. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
37°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be hot and uneasy. Night also will be pleasant. Dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Tusker that killed farmer captured in Hassan, sent to Dubare camp

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Officials of the Forest Department on Saturday succeed in capturing the tusker that killed a farmer, at Malasavara minor forest area in Belur taluk in Hassan district.

The tusker had attacked Raja Shetti at Kanaguppe village, on April 12. Following the incident, the department launched an operation to capture the elephant on Tuesday. There was an attempt to capture the animal on Wednesday. However, the animal succeeded in escaping, snapping the rope tied to it.

The operation resumed on Friday. Finally, the operation succeeded on Saturday. For the first time, the officials used the service of a dog of the Elephant Anti-Depredation Dog Squad (EaDDS) in the operation.

The elephant that was captured in Belur taluk on Saturday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The trained dog helped the staff in tracking the elephant in the operation, said a communique issued by Sourabh Kumar, Deputy Conservator of Forest of Hassan. The squad, A Rocha India, consists trained Belgian Melinois. The dogs assist the department while handling human-elephant conflict.

Mr. Sourabh Kumar said that the dogs had been trained to track the elephants. "In this case, we took the dog to the place where there was sign suggesting the elephant's movement, with a rope tied to it's leg. From there it traced the elephant's location," the officer said.

He has requested the NGO to depute the squad in Hassan for a month to track the movement of elephants, whenever required. The officer said the tusker captured had been sent to the elephant camp at Dubare.

Kumki elephants Haraha, Dhananjaya, Ayyappa, Srirama from Dubare camp, and Bheema and Srikantha from Mathigodu camp, helped the staff in the operation.

Veterinarians Adarsh and Vaseem sedated the animal. Mohan Kumar, ACF of Hassan, Madhusudan, ACF of Sakaleshpur, Umapathi, ACF of Elephant Task Force and the staff were involved in the operation.

Four cheetahs from South Africa arrive in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Four cheetahs landed at Kempegowda International Airport, Bengaluru, from South Africa on Friday night. These cheetahs will be housed at the Bannerghatta National Park on the outskirts of the city and will be available for public viewing shortly.

Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment Eshwar B. Khandre received the cheetahs at the KIA. He instructed officials to keep a close watch on the health of the cheetahs and ensure they acclimatise well. These cheetahs will be kept in quarantine for 30 days, checked for infections and kept under observation before moving them to the national park.

One of the four cheetahs that arrived from South Africa.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"There was a time when there were cheetahs in the forests of Karnataka. But they have become extinct here. So we have got these cheetahs from South Africa, so that our people are able to see them at least in a zoo," Mr. Khandre said.

30-year-old man dies after being attacked by Indian gaur

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

A 30-year-old man died after he was attacked by an Indian gaur in a private estate near Marasanige in Kalasa taluk of Chikkamagaluru district on Saturday.

Chetan encountered the gaur while working in the estate in the early hours of the day. The animal attacked him, and one of its horns pierced his abdomen. The local people took him to the government hospital at Kalasa, where he succumbed to the injury.

Third death

This is the third death in an attack by an Indian gaur in Chikkamagaluru district since February 2025.

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Political war of words erupts over Women's Reservation Bill

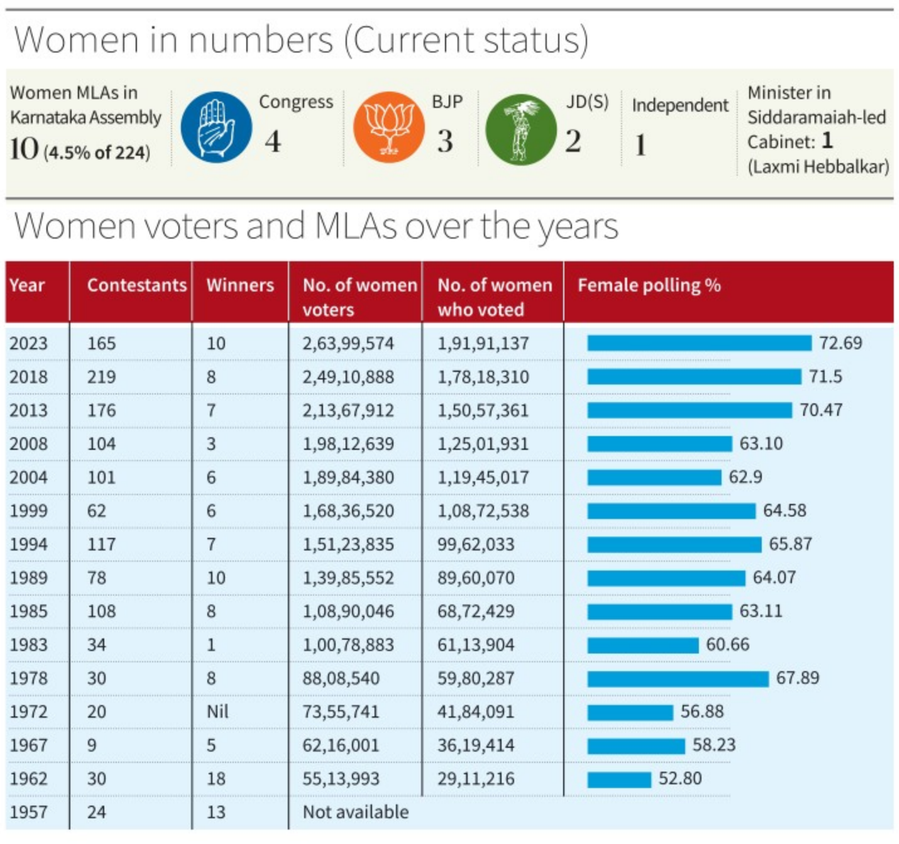
Siddaramaiah calls events in Parliament 'deceptive political drama' by NDA govt.; Karnataka BJP dubs Cong. as 'anti-women'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A sharp political exchange unfolded in Karnataka on Saturday over the Women's Reservation Bill, with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah accusing the Union government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi of staging a "deceptive political drama", calling it an "insult and betrayal" to women nationwide.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said the Centre convened a special session of Parliament in haste and held what he described as a token discussion to ensure the Bill's failure. On an issue as significant as political reservation for women, who constitute nearly half the country's population, he said the Prime Minister ought to have held wider consultations with Opposition parties and senior women leaders across sectors. Presenting the Bill abruptly and expecting unconditional support from Opposition parties, he argued, amounted to "disrespect not only to women but also to democratic processes".

Reiterating the Congress party's position, the Chief Minister stated that it has consistently advocated for women's political reservation, regardless of its position in power. He cited the legacy of leaders such as Indira Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi, and pointed to the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments introduced under former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, which ensured 33% reservation for women in local bodies. Mr. Siddaramaiah questioned the delay in implementing the law, noting that the Bill had already been passed by Parliament in 2023. "If the intention was genuine, why delay implementation for three years?" he asked, alleging that the move was politically motivated and driven by electoral considerations in States such as Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.


Women in numbers (Current status)
Women MLAs in Karnataka Assembly
10 (4.5% of 224)
Congress 4
BJP 3
JD(S) 2
Independent 1
Minister in Siddaramaiah-led Cabinet: 1 (Laxmi Hebbalkar)
Women voters and MLAs over the years

Year	Contestants	Winners	No. of women voters	No. of women who voted	Female polling %
2023	165	10	2,63,99,574	1,91,91,137	72.69
2018	219	8	2,49,10,888	1,78,18,310	71.5
2013	176	7	2,13,67,912	1,50,57,361	70.47
2008	104	3	1,98,12,639	1,25,01,931	63.10
2004	101	6	1,89,84,380	1,19,45,017	62.9
1999	62	6	1,68,36,520	1,08,72,538	64.58
1994	117	7	1,51,23,835	99,62,033	65.87
1989	78	10	1,39,85,552	89,60,070	64.07
1985	108	8	1,08,90,046	68,72,429	63.11
1983	34	1	1,00,78,883	61,13,904	60.66
1978	30	8	88,08,540	59,80,287	67.89
1972	20	Nil	73,55,741	41,84,091	56.88
1967	9	5	62,16,001	36,19,414	58.23
1962	30	18	55,13,993	29,11,216	52.80
1957	24	13	Not available		

Delimitation concerns

Mr. Siddaramaiah also raised concerns over the Centre's shifting stance on delimitation. While the Prime Minister had earlier linked implementation to the 2026 Census and subsequent delimitation, the current move to amend the law appeared inconsistent, he said. The proposed delimitation model, based primarily on population, would disadvantage southern States, including Karnataka, by reducing their representation in Parliament. Terming the approach "unfair", he said it penalises States that have performed better on development indicators.

He clarified that the Congress is not against women's reservation; rather, the party's concern lies in linking it with what he termed a "flawed delimitation process."

BJP hits back

Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly R. Ashok accused the Congress of "denying justice" to women by not backing the Bill. He said the development reflected a "clear anti-women mindset" and warned that voters would respond strongly in upcoming elections. "Women are not seeking token benefits; they want equal representation in legislatures," he said.

BJP Mahila Morcha State president C. Manjula said the party would launch a series of protests across Karnataka against what she termed the Congress's "anti-women stance". Demonstrations have already been held in Mysuru, Gadag, Nelamangala and Kolar, and will be extended to Bengaluru and other districts in the coming days. "This is not merely about one Bill. It is about the right of women to participate in governance and decision-making," she said.

History repeats: JD(S)

JD(S) State president and Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy said the developments showed that "history repeats itself", alleging that the Congress had maintained an "anti-women mindset" over decades. Recalling that the United Front government led by H.D. Deve Gowda had introduced a Bill providing 33% reservation for women, he claimed that the effort was derailed by the Congress and its allies.

After tying women's quota to delimitation, why shift blame, ask women activists

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

While the 2023 Bill was supported by all parties, Opposition parties had flagged its delimitation and Census link, pointing out that it would result in indefinite delay

"We have been fighting for women's representation in politics since the 1970s. It should have been on par with men by now. It's a fundamental right. Why tie it to delimitation? I feel tired now," said 74-year-old Donna Fernandes, one of the founding members of women's rights group Vimochana and founder of Aweksha.

Conversations around women's reservation have come up again as the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, that sought to redistribute Lok Sabha seats on the basis of the 2011 Census, was defeated. While the ruling NDA has been blaming the Opposition for blocking a Bill, which, according to the government, was meant to fast-track the implementation of the Women's Reservation Law, women's groups and activists in Karnataka question why its rollout is tied to the delimitation exercise in the first place.

On existing seats

"Why link the delimitation exercise, in the first place, to women's reservation is the question I have asked since 2023," said Tara Krishnaswamy, co-founder of Political Shakti. "If one has to second-guess it, it would seem that they don't want to give seats to women unless their own seats increase."

Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, India's law to reserve 33% seats for women in Parliament and State Assemblies, was passed in 2023, but linking it with a fresh Census and subsequent delimitation exercise has proven to be a roadblock in its implementation.

"Linking both defers the women's reservation to 2034. On top of that, they have put a sunset clause of 15 years from when it is notified," Ms. Krishnaswamy said. While the 2023 Bill was supported by all parties, Opposition parties had flagged its delimitation and Census link, pointing out that it would result in indefinite delay in implementation. The 16th Census, which was to be held in 2021, was announced only recently in April.

"What is the rationale behind not implementing reservations in the existing number of seats?" asked Vimala K.S, State vice-president of the All India Democratic Women's Association in Karnataka. She added that if the BJP was genuinely committed, it could have implemented the quota immediately after introducing it in 2023, in time for the 2024 elections.

"BJP simply wants more of its people to be in the Parliament. So they are using the Women's Reservation Act as a mask," she alleged, adding that the government was trying to build a "pro-women" image, when several women are being left out of the electoral rolls due to the SIR. Madhu Bhushan, feminist and activist, remarked that the government was weaponising and instrumentalising an important women's issue to suit their agenda. "It's bad enough that we had to fight for women's reservation, but then the government decides to link it up with something as complex as delimitation and later tries to ride on the backs of the Women's Reservation Bill to push its agenda. And now to tell women that the Opposition stopped it is the height of political hypocrisy," she lashed out.

According to her, reservations for women in Panchayats could serve as a model. "They backed Panchayat reservations with training, making them more meaningful. It isn't perfect, but it recognises women's exclusion from politics. Do the same at the State and Parliamentary level, provide funding, expand training, add sub-quotas for marginalised women, involve independent women's groups, discuss, then have special sessions to see who is opposing it."

Bengaluru proves that growth, green can co-exist: CJI

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"Energy justice" must shape how India reimagines law, policy and innovation, ensuring a balance between development and environmental protection, said Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, adding that the country must be prepared for a "delicate balancing exercise" between its development goals and commitment to a greener future.

Sustainable coexistence

"Bengaluru, in that context, offers an important lesson that tradition and transformation are not opposing forces. Heritage and modern development can exist together without weakening each other," he said, pointing out how technology hubs stand close to green spaces. This coexistence, he said, shows that development pathways can be designed to ensure fair distribution of benefits and burdens, transparent decision-making, and real recognition of vulnerable communities.

CJI Surya Kant, along with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, inaugurated the two-day international conference on "Sustainable Energy: An Agenda for India @2047 - Reimagining Law, Policy, and Innovation for Energy Justice" on Saturday.

Vision for 2047

Speaking about India's vision for 2047, the CJI said it must be rooted in justice and bring together economic growth and ecological sensitivity. Energy justice, he added, is not an idea borrowed from developed countries but a "moral framework" that allows a growing nation to develop without taking away what belongs to its citizens, namely, clean air, clean water and a livable future. The CJI pointed out that the Constitution places both the right to development and the right to a clean environment within the broad scope of Article 21.

What is needed, he said, is not a change in direction but a stronger commitment, with the pace of change adjusted to what vulnerable communities can handle.

Judiciary's role

The judiciary, he said, has an important role in this, by ensuring that every development decision is judged on the basis of fairness, transparency and accountability.

He noted that courts have long intervened to protect the environment and biodiversity. What has changed, he said, is that the judiciary is now more responsive to modern challenges and is adopting more advanced methods, adding that courts cannot take an extreme view.

The approach must shift from reacting after damage is done to building protection into the design of development itself.

Explaining how environmental law has evolved, he said the earlier model of "pollute and pay" is no longer enough. Today, the focus is on whether all possible steps were taken to prevent pollution in the first place.

He added that this is the broader approach now being followed by the Supreme Court and High Courts.

Don't be afraid of artificial intelligence, CJI Surya Kant tells judicial officers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Advising judicial officers not to be afraid of artificial intelligence (AI), Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on Saturday said the judiciary must be technologically adept, yet philosophically grounded, and embrace innovation, without surrendering to its human character.

Chief Justice of India Surya Kant with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah during the 22nd Biennial State Level Conference of Judicial Officers at GKVK in Bengaluru. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Delivering the inaugural address at the 22nd Biennial State Level Conference of Judicial Officers, organised by the Karnataka State Judicial Officers' Association in Bengaluru on the theme 'Reimagining the judiciary in the era of artificial intelligence', the CJI said the task before the judiciary is not to resist technological progress, but to integrate it in a manner that strengthens, rather than diminishes, the essence of justice.

"What do you do when a case with very complicated facts and complex questions of law is placed before you? You apply a little more mind, you spend a little more time, you show a little more patience, and then you feel so happy when you decide to win the case. So it shall be with AI; when you start using AI tools carefully and consciously, ensuring that 'the judge sitting inside you' remains independent and is not influenced by these technical tools," Justice Kant said. "As we navigate this evolving landscape, it becomes necessary to reaffirm a foundational principle, namely, that justice is, and must remain, a human endeavour," the CJI said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah warned against the dangers of algorithmic bias, which could lead to a form of "digital social Darwinism" that amplifies existing caste and class inequalities.

Drawing from the constitutional vision of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, he asserted that "constitutional morality must guide technological adoption, not the other way round". He highlighted the emerging challenges posed by deepfakes and synthetic evidence, which compel the legal system to revisit doctrines of admissibility and authenticity.

While renewing the demand for the establishment of a Bench of the Supreme Court in South India, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the State government remains committed to building robust judicial infrastructure, facilitating digital transformation, and creating an ecosystem where innovation and justice can progress together.

Justice B.V. Nagarathna, a Judge of the Supreme Court, said that AI does not replace legal analysis or human oversight. Referring to instances of the production of incorrect or fabricated case laws generated by AI before the courts, she said that the time has now come for advocates to also issue a certificate that the judgments relied upon by them are authentic. Pointing out that there has been an adequate increase in salaries and allowances for judges in the district judiciary across the country, Justice Nagarathna emphasised that judges, who are unable to live within their known sources of income and fall prey to greed and temptation, must be weeded out of the system.

First in country

Justice Aravind Kumar, a Judge of the Supreme Court, said that Karnataka's district judiciary ranks first in the country, having disposed of 57,56,568 cases over the past three years against an institution of 60,31,273 cases during the same period, achieving a disposal rate of 95.45%, while lauding the services of the judicial officers.

'Judiciary got 'peanuts' from State funds in last 3 years'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a rare public nudge to the Executive, Justice Aravind Kumar, Judge of the Supreme Court, on Saturday highlighted a fiscal disparity in Karnataka's judicial funding in the past three years, while urging Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to direct officials to allocate at least 75% to 80% of court-collected revenue back for the judiciary's infrastructure.

Speaking at the 22nd Biennial State-Level Conference of Judicial Officers here, Justice Kumar noted that the State exchequer annually received ₹376 crore, ₹439 crore and ₹470 crore from 2023-24 to 2025-26, in forms, however, the government allocated only between ₹40 lakh to ₹1.4 crore during this period, other than the non-salary allocation for the judiciary. "This means it is peanuts compared to the revenue received," Justice Kumar observed. He lamented that while litigation has surged from 17 lakh cases in 2023 to 22 lakh in 2025, government officials pay "slow attention" to judiciary proposals and often approve reduced demands. He cited that against a request for 666 staff for the Karnataka High Court's three Benches, only 230 were sanctioned; similarly, district judiciary requests for 680 staff were cut to 400.

Justice Kumar further stressed that basic infrastructure, judges' quarters, and court complexes are "essential" for the administration of justice.

Student innovators showcase business projects at IISc

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Launchpad 2026, the national finale of the Young Pioneers programme, where student innovators from schools across India showcase business projects they have built, was held at IISc, Bengaluru.

Over 90 student teams from classes 7 to 10, across India participated, with 32 finalists presenting their venture ideas at the finale.

The programme, co-developed by Cambridge University Press & Assessment and ed-tech company Get Set Learn, integrates coursebook learning with expert-led masterclasses and mentorship.

Winners

Plasmo Guard, an AI-powered technology which can detect malaria at an early stage within minutes, developed by students from Chirec International School, Hyderabad, emerged winners in the Beginner category.

Steel Root by Laurel High Global School, Rajahmundry won in the Intermediate category.

The Emerging Innovator Award was presented to Head Safe Pro (Beginner) from Billabong School, Pune, and MFC Labs (Intermediate) from Cambria International School, Nashik.

City school wins

Global City, Bengaluru, was named School of the Year for its overall performance and engagement in the programme.

New library at Alliance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Alliance Française de Bangalore is set to open its renovated library that holds 7,500 books, a media centre and a screening space on April 22.

According to a release, books will be in French, English and Kannada. "The library was established in 1980 and is being renovated for the first time. Other salient features of the library, named after French writer Simone de Beauvoir, include a dedicated room for quiet reading and research, as well as a newly created screening space dedicated to the Late Kannada writer S.L. Bhyrappa," said the release.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

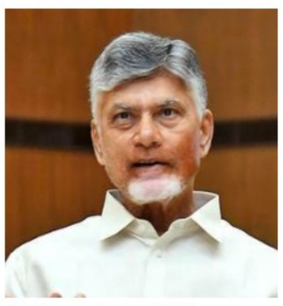
Second Year Anniversary

Dr. P. Robert Guruswamy
(Former Bursar, Madras Christian College.)
Lovingly remembered by family and friends.
Ph: 9884551736

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981,
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575,
from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Online booking: www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

Opposition parties did 'great disservice' to nation, says Naidu

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA


N. Chandrababu Naidu

A day after the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill was defeated in the Lok Sabha, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday said the Opposition parties had done a great disservice to the nation by standing against the Bill.

He stated on X that with the freeze under Article 81 set to end after the first Census conducted post-2026, the forthcoming Census exercise would reset seat distribution purely based on population, potentially leading to a steep decline in representation for the southern, northeastern, and other smaller States.

Deputy Chief Minister K. Pawan Kalyan also expressed regret that the "historic opportunity" to strengthen women's representation in India's legislatures had been deliberately blocked by the Opposition. He noted on X that the Opposition's stance made it clear that they lacked the intent to support transformative reforms that strengthen India's democracy and empower women.

Flames of DMK's black flag protest burnt down BJP's saffron flag, asserts Stalin

He says the BJP's criticism that the DMK is stalling the passage of the Women Reservation Bill will not hold water since the Bill was adopted during 2023 with the support of the Dravidian major

The Hindu Bureau
TIRUPPUR

M.K. Stalin

DMK president and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin in Tiruppur on Saturday compared his burning of a copy of the Constitution Amendment Bill on April 16 to its defeat in Parliament the next day and said the flames of the DMK's black flag protest burnt down BJP's saffron flag.

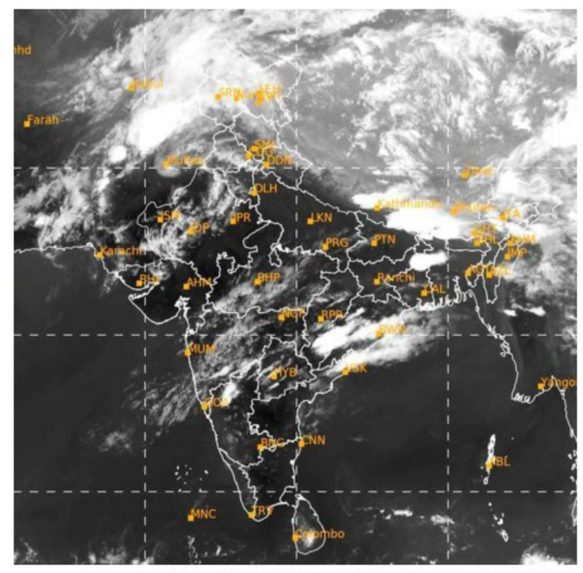
While campaigning for candidates of the DMK and its allies contesting from the Assembly segments in Tiruppur district, a beaming Mr. Stalin broke into song, belting out *'En kitte modhadhe...'* from Superstar Rajnikanth's *Rajadhi Raja* and customising the verses to imply Tamil Nadu, being the fortress of Periyar and Anna, was impregnable, to highlight his sense of victory.

"This is an outcome of the Dravidian Model governance," Mr. Stalin said, and ridiculed AIADMK general secretary Edappadi K. Palaniswami for going back on the stand he had taken on delimitation issue when it was discussed in the Assembly during 2023, after the Women Reservation Bill was passed in Parliament during September.

Mr. Palaniswami, he charged, had pledged his self-respect with the BJP due to his avarice for power. But then, the DMK will not let him sacrifice the State's interests under the subjugation of the BJP, he said. Describing the AIADMK leader as a 'chameleon', Mr. Stalin went on to remark that the former had been reduced to a laughing stock. The BJP's criticism that the DMK had stalled the passage of the Women Reservation Bill would not hold water since it was adopted during 2023 with the DMK's support. "What were you doing for 33 months?" Mr. Stalin asked the BJP, and challenged Mr. Palaniswami if he would be able to prevail upon the BJP, "for once with backbone", to get the Women Reservation Bill passed independently.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Meghalaya, Tripura, Sikkim, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka. Hot and humid weather likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.9	26.2	Kozhikode	—	37.3	29.2
Ahmedabad	—	41.8	26.0	Kurnool	—	43.8	29.2
Aizawl	—	32.3	20.5	Lucknow	—	41.0	24.0
Allahabad	—	43.2	24.6	Madurai	—	39.0	25.6
Bengaluru	—	36.4	23.9	Mangaluru	—	33.4	26.9
Bhopal	—	41.4	23.4	Mumbai	—	34.3	25.1
Bhubaneswar	—	36.7	28.0	Mysuru	—	37.0	22.8
Chandigarh	—	40.0	19.4	New Delhi	12	39.5	19.8
Chennai	—	36.6	28.4	Patna	—	39.6	27.4
Coimbatore	—	38.6	25.6	Port Blair	—	31.8	25.5
Dehradun	—	37.5	19.0	Puducherry	—	34.5	27.6
Gangtok	34	18.5	14.2	Pune	—	41.1	25.1
Goa	—	34.5	25.5	Raipur	—	43.2	29.7
Guwahati	—	31.0	23.2	Ranchi	—	38.8	22.0
Hubballi	—	38.0	22.0	Shillong	4	21.5	14.1
Hyderabad	—	40.4	28.2	Shimla	—	30.2	17.5
Imphal	0.3	29.3	16.3	Srinagar	14	15.8	10.7
Jaipur	—	40.8	25.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	35.8	26.9
Kochi	—	33.8	28.8	Tiruchi	—	38.9	26.6
Kohima	—	22.7	14.5	Vijayawada	—	39.0	27.2
Kolkata	—	36.4	27.6	Visakhapatnam	—	33.2	28.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.87	..49	34	... 110	...173	
Bengaluru	.12	..75	20	 67	...106	
Chennai	...5	4	34	 63	49	
Delhi	.25	..82	53	... 174	...245	
Hyderabad	...2	8	27	 78	...103	
Kolkata	...7	..48	33	 54	52	
Lucknow	.13	..54	51	... 262	...152	
Mumbai	...3	..14	54	 44	...139	
Pune	.36	..61	55	 63	...101	
Visakhapatnam	.33	..44	16	 23	82	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Meghalaya recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 280 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Puducherry recorded a healthy AQI score of 21

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Kerala village bids farewell to nine victims of accident

The Hindu Bureau
MALAPPURAM

A crowd gathered at Government Higher Secondary School, Pang, on Saturday to pay homage to the victims. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Pang Chendi village in Malappuram district on Saturday bid a tearful farewell to nine victims of a tragic accident involving a team of teachers from the village.

Nine members of the group, seven of them women, were killed and four injured when their van careened off the road and tumbled nearly 500 feet down the hillside while negotiating the sharp curves of the Valparai Ghat Road near Pollachi on Friday evening.

Heart-rending scenes shattered the calm as the entire village gathered for a final glimpse of their beloved teachers when the bodies were brought to Government Higher Secondary School, Pang, for public viewing after post-mortem procedures were completed at Pollachi in the early hours of Saturday.

The bodies of P. Ajitha, 54; Ramlath, 52; Zuhara, 43; her son Hisham, 12; Asha, 41; Abdul Majeed, 43; his wife, Rukhiya, 39; Sajida, 45; and Shakeena, 37, were laid side by side in mobile freezers. Tears fell on the glass lids and were soon hidden beneath the wreaths placed in farewell.

Ramlath, Sajida and Shakeena were buried at the Pang Juma Masjid cemetery. Majeed and Rukhiya were interred at the Mattath Juma Masjid cemetery. Zuhara and Hisham were buried at the East Pang Juma Masjid cemetery. Ajitha was cremated at Santhitheeram, Shoranur, while Asha was cremated at her house compound at Kolathur.

Ajitha was the headmistress of GLP School, Pang. Ramlath, Zuhara, Asha and Abdul Majeed were her colleagues. Sajida worked as a cook at the school. Shakeena was a teacher at GUP School, Pang.

The accident has nearly orphaned GLP School, Pang, leaving just one primary teacher, Hasnath, who could not join the excursion as she was preparing for this year's Haj pilgrimage.

General Education Minister V. Sivankutty, who paid homage to the victims, said the teacher vacancies triggered by the tragedy would be filled before the school reopens. He said students would be provided counselling to help them cope with the trauma and critically injured would be given the option of advanced treatment

CBI arrests former bank employee, two others in 'digital arrest' case

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Saturday arrested three accused persons, including a former bank official, following searches at five locations across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in a 'digital arrest' case.

The accused have been identified as Dubbaka Mahesh, who worked as an assistant manager with IndusInd Bank; Rajesh Kanna; and Vayala Srinivas. The searches covered the premises linked to them.

The case is being investigated by the CBI pursuant to a Supreme Court order.

"The victim, a senior citizen, was allegedly coerced into transferring an amount exceeding ₹1.6 crore under the threat of 'digital arrest'," the agency said. The defrauded funds were routed to a bank account opened fraudulently in the name of a company to facilitate receipt of proceeds of cyber fraud, according to the CBI.

A few days ago, the agency filed a chargesheet against a Siliguri-based accused, Sagnik Roy, and a company incorporated by him in another 'digital arrest' case in which an elderly south Delhi resident was cheated of nearly ₹23 crore.

PUBLIC NOTICE
(Loss of Original Agreement of Sale)

Notice is hereby given to the general public, our client, **Mr.R.A.Pradeep** S/o late Ambikapaty, has lost/misplaced the original Agreement of Sale pertaining to the property more fully described hereunder and is not traceable despite diligent search.

The said Agreement of Sale relates to land bearing Survey Nos. 26, 27 & 28, situated at Papanahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, measuring approximately 12 acres in total. It was executed in or about 2012 by **Mr. Veera Ganesh** S/o Ummareddy Venkateshwarlu, residing at No. 8-2-219/N, Plot Nos. 31 & 32, Navodaya Colony, Road No. 2, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh – 500034, in favour of our client, Mr. R.A. Pradeep.

A police complaint has been lodged with the jurisdictional police authorities, and a **Lost Article Report bearing No. 2156184/2026 dated 16.04.2026** has been issued.

Any person(s) in possession of the said original document is requested to return it forthwith to the undersigned. Further, any person having any claim, right, or objection whatsoever in respect of the above property by virtue of the said document is required to notify the undersigned in writing, along with supporting original documents, at the address below within **7 (seven) days** from the date of publication of this notice.

Prashanth Aradhya H.C.
Shekhar Law Associates.,
Advocate & Solicitors
#919, 5th Main, MC Layout, Vijaynagar, Bengaluru-560040, Ph:9731967197
Bengaluru Date : 19-04-2026

WEST CENTRAL RAILWAY
Open Tender
Signal & Telecommunication Branch

Invitation of E-tender on behalf of the president of India acting through Sr. Divisional Engineer Signal & Telecom (Co-Ordination), West Central Railway, Jabalpur for the following works:- **NIT No. :** JBP-N-Tele-TENDER-2026-02, **Name of work with location :** Enhancement of Railnet Facility at various office in Jabalpur division., **Approx cost of the work :** Rs.43990003.85, **Cost of tender form (In Rs.) :** Rs. Nil, **Address of the office of railway :** DRM(S&T)'s Office, 1st Floor, DRM Building, Jabalpur, **Earnest money (In Rs.) :** Rs.879800.00, **Completion period (In months):** 11 months, **Date & Time for closing & opening of tender :** Closing on 15.00 Hrs on 14.05.2026 & opening after 15:00 hours The complete information of the above 'e-tender' is available on website "https://ireps.gov.in" and also placed on notice board of the Divisional Railway Manager (S&T) Office, West Central Railway, Jabalpur. Tenders other than in the form of e-bids shall not be accepted against above tender.

Sd./-
For DRM (S&T),
West Central Railway, Jabalpur

स्वच्छ भारत अभियान
एक कदम स्वच्छता की ओर

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY
E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/TRD, North Western Railway, Bikaner for & on behalf of the president of India, invites E-tender for the following work.**1. Complete details of tenders can be seen on Website No : http://www.ireps.gov.in 2. Date & time of closing of e-tender: 12.05.2026** at 15.00 hrs. **3. Date & time of opening of e-tender:** After 15.00 hrs. on **12.05.2026 Tender Notice No.:** 02-TRD-BKN-ETender-2026-27 **Name of work** : TRD modification work in c/w Provision of New TMC sidings along with facilities- 29 Nos. over Bikaner Division **Approx. Cost of the work (Rs.) :** 9,10,34,986.40 **EMD/SD (Rs.) :** 18,20,700.00

566-DR/26

Please join us on /NWRailways NWRailways_

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Materials Management Department
Auction Programme - May 2026
Notice No: 05/2026

E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, Non-Ferrous scrap, other Misc scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way scrap material.

Sl. No.	E-Auction Conducted By	Date of auction for the month of for May-2026				Material for auction
1	GSD/PER	06/05/26	15/05/26	25/05/26	-	The details of items to be sold in e-auction will be available in catalogue **www.ireps.gov.in** website
2	CSSD/GOC	11/05/26	20/05/26	27/05/26	-	
3	SSD/PTJ	04/05/26	14/05/26	22/05/26	-	
4	MAS	06/05/26	15/05/26	27/05/26	-	
5	SA	05/05/26	13/05/26	21/05/26	29/05/26	
6	TVC	05/05/26	13/05/26	21/05/26	-	
7	PGT	07/05/26	-	26/05/26	-	
8	TPJ	04/05/26	14/05/26	22/05/26	-	
9	MDU	07/05/26	18/05/26	26/05/26	-	

Total no. of auctions for MAY 27
For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit our web-site **http://www.ireps.gov.in ->E-Auction->Sale->Live Auctions.**

Principal Chief Materials Manager

PUBLIC NOTICE

My clients **Sri N.YAYATHI RAJU, S/o late Sri N.K.Changama Raju & Smt N.DEEPA W/o Sri N.Yayathi Raju,** intend to purchase the Schedule property mentioned below from **Sri K.SURESH S/o Sri C.Krishna Iyer** & entered into Sale Agreement on 25.03.2026. Any person/s having any title, claim, demand or interest over the Schedule property or any objections regarding the transaction may write to undersigned within **07 days** from the publication of this notice with supporting documents in writing, failing which my clients will complete the sale transaction on the basis that there are no claimant/s with claim/s, objection/s or interest over the schedule property whatsoever. No Claim will be undertaken or considered after **07 days** of publication of this notice by my clients and neither will it be binding.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Vacant Property bearing **Site No 532,** bearing BDA PID No.3217040458, situated at **5th 'G' Block, Anjanapura Layout, Bangalore,** in the Layout formed by the Bangalore Development Authority, Bangalore measuring East to West **12.00 meters** and North to South **18.00 meters** in all measuring **216.00 Sq.mts (ie., 40 feet X 60 feet) Or 2400 Sq.ft.** and bounded on;

East by : Site No.532/A,
West by : Site No.533,
North by : Site No.531,
South by : Road.

SUDHAMANI & ASSOCIATES
Advocates & Legal consultants
ROLL No. KAR/787/1989
No. 1/A, 5th 'A' Cross, 24th Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, BANGALORE-78.
Ph. No 08026491048 / 08040937344
M-9845235255.

Transport Department
Transport Department Office, 2nd Floor,
Visveswaraya Bhawan, J N L Marg Patna – 800015
Govt. of Bihar

Public Notice

Expression of Interest (EOI) and Stakeholder Consultation

Subject: Expression of Interest (EOI) number: 05-269/2025 - 270 dated 17/4/26 regarding Bihar State Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS) Project.

Transport Department, Government of Bihar invites all relevant stakeholders and industry participants for a **Stakeholder Consultation** on the proposed **Intelligent Traffic Management System (ITMS)** Project to be implemented across the State of Bihar.

Participation is invited from:

Established Industry Leaders / OEMs / System Integrators / Master System Integrators / AI Companies / / Network Solution Providers etc. with experience in large-scale technology deployments.

Key Project Scope:

The project scope includes AI based Electronic Enforcement (ITMS), Adaptive Traffic Control system (ATCS), Incident Detection System, General Surveillance, Facial Recognition (FR) System, GST eWay Bill Verification, tracking and monitoring of vehicles used to carry mining goods particularly etc. The project would include design and development of Traffic Management Center (TMC), per district Viewing Center (VC) and allied services such as Software, Hosting Infrastructure (DC & DR), Network, Power, Manpower Services etc. These solutions under the project are expected to be implemented across the state, including on State & National Highways and major cities, selected Toll Plazas etc. The selected vendor is expected to implement these systems at ~500 to 700 locations and operate and maintain the same for a period of 10 years from date of Project Go-Live. The estimated project cost is ~INR 300+ Cr.

Detailed Expression of Interest (EOI) document is available on: Notice board section on department website - state.bihar.gov.in/transport. Participants may contact Mr. Rajeev Kumar, Road Safety Vehicle Engineer, on 79922 67463 for any query.

Consultation Date: Tuesday, **28 April 2026, 03:00 PM**

Venue: Conference Hall, Visveswaraya Bhavan, J N L Marg Patna.

Max. Representatives: 02 per organization

E-mail to Participate: Share the details of representatives (Name, Contact number and official email ID) on **stcbihar@bihar.gov.in, on or before 24 April 2026, 3:00 PM.**

Expectation from participants: Suggestions and recommendations for the project success on project scope, technical suggestions, implementation models, critical success factors etc. The participants may submit their document (without any confidential and cost information) on the above-mentioned email id, which shall not be more than 20 pages per firm. The same shall be emailed **on or before 24 April 2026, 3:00 PM.**

All eligible industry participants are invited to contribute their insights for shaping this critical State-wide initiative.

Secretary
Transport Department, Bihar

This information is available on **www.state.bihar.gov.in/prdbihar also**

PR. No. 001456 (Transport) 2026-27

नशामुक्त हो जाए बिहार, सुरक्षित रहे घर परिवार।

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
SIGNALLING WORK
E-Tender Notice
Tender Notice No SUR-N-T-2026-27-03Date: 15.04.2026

DRM(S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India Invites online e-Tenders on Railway's e-procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms/Contractors for the following works: **Sr.No.:- 1., Name of work with its locality:-** Provision of Electronic Interlocking at Ghami (proposed new Block station) in Latur-Latur Road section of Solapur Division of Central Railway., **Tender No.:-** SUR-N-T-2026-27-03, **Approximate Cost of the work:-** Rs. 8,67,22,898.49, **Cost of the tender form:-** NIL, **Earnest money to be deposited:-** Rs. 17,34,500, **Completion period of the work :-** 12 Months, **Date & Time of Closing of tender:-** 08/05/2026 after 15:30 Hrs., The details are available in ireps website. Corrigendum/ amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/postal/e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with **www.ireps.gov.in.**, The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway or in the form of Bank Guarantee and the original Bank Guarantee should be delivered in person to the official nominated as Indicated in the tender document before closing date for submission of bids (i.e. excluding the last date of submission of bids). For further details please visit **www.ireps.gov.in.**

DRM S&T Branch, Solapur

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PUBLIC NOTICE
(Loss of Original Sale Deed and Cancellation Deed)

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the original registered Sale Deed dated 05.06.2025 and Cancellation Deed dated 05.06.2025 pertaining to the property described hereunder have been lost/misplaced and remain untraceable despite diligent search.

Our clients, **Sri. Pramod Anand** S/o Anand Rao, residing at No. E3, 3rd Floor, Vinayaka Residency, Gangamma Block, R.T. Nagar, Bengaluru – 560032, and **Sri. Prakash K.V**. S/o Venkateshappa, aged about 48 years, residing at No. 326, Uttari Main Road, Kaggalipura, Bengaluru – 560082, are the absolute joint owners in lawful possession and enjoyment of all that piece and parcel of immovable property bearing **Sy. No. 57,** measuring 4 acres 34 guntas, situated at **Nelaguli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru District** (hereinafter referred to as the "Said Property").

The original Sale Deed dated 05.06.2025, registered as Document No. JGN-1-00915-2025-26 in Book-1 before the Sub-Registrar, Jigani, executed in favour of our clients by the previous vendors, and the Cancellation Deed dated 05.06.2025, bearing Document No. JGN-1-00907-2025-26 in Book-1 before the Sub-Registrar, Jigani, executed by the previous vendors, relating to the Said Property, have been irretrievably lost. A police complaint has been lodged with the jurisdictional police station, and **Lost Article Report No. 2158549/2026 dated 16.04.2026** has been issued.

Any person(s) in possession of the said original documents is requested to return them forthwith to the undersigned. Further, any person having any claim, right, or objection whatsoever in respect of the Said Property by virtue of the aforementioned documents is required to notify the undersigned in writing, along with supporting original documents, at the address below within **7 (seven) days** from the date of publication of this notice.

Prashanth Aradhya H.C.
Shekhar Law Associates.,
Advocate & Solicitors
#919, 5th Main, MC Layout, Vijaynagar, Bengaluru-560040, Ph:9731967197
Bengaluru Date : 19-04-2026

From Page One

'NDA will remove the hurdles before quota'

"I wanted to tell these parties that they are taking women's power for granted and that they will face the consequences of it. Women can forgive a lot, but not an attack on their dignity and self-respect," he added.

"Many of these parties are dynastic, and they apprehend that our mothers and sisters who are in their thousands in panchayats and local bodies would take their share of power, edging them and their families out," he said.

"The Congress has opposed all manner of reform ranging from the Goods and Service Tax (GST) reforms, to digital payment architecture, reservations for the poor among the general category, to triple talaq, the Uniform Civil Code, reforms in the Waqf Board and even measures to give relief to refugees under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)," he said. He termed it a legacy of the Congress's adoption of the divide-and-rule policy of the British.

INDIA bloc may write to PM on delinking quota

Mr. Reddy said the BJP was trying to end reservation for Dalits and Adivasis through the women's quota route, after it failed to secure more than 400 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha election. "The so-called women's reservation law was tied to delimitation and an increase in seats. If women's reservation was the real goal, a simple amendment was all it needed," he said.

Mr. Reddy alleged that the BJP's push for 400-plus seats in the 2024 general election was aimed at securing a two-thirds majority to amend the Constitution and remove reservation guaranteed by Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. "The people gave Modi 240, not 400. Yesterday [Friday], they defeated his intentions again," he said.

Hitting back at the BJP's charge that the INDIA bloc opposed women's empowerment, Mr. Reddy said the government should introduce a "clean" women's reservation Bill by Monday, without linking it to delimitation, and the alliance would pass it. He also said southern States will not agree to a population-based delimitation exercise.

Opposition unity on Bill was neither automatic nor obvious

When government was holding consultations with INDIA bloc parties, it faced no outright opposition to the legislation till the last week of March; the narrative on the issue began to change only in the run-up to the Parliament debate

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Path to unity: Congress president Malikarjun Kharge with alliance members after the INDIA bloc meeting to discuss a united strategy on the Women's Reservation Bill and the expansion of parliamentary seats on April 15. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

A unified Opposition scored a victory in Parliament on Friday, when they defeated the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 – a legislation that sought to increase the strength of the Lok Sabha by 50% and redistribute seats based on the 2011 Census to expedite the implementation of women's reservation.

This unity, however, was neither automatic nor obvious.

The government began consultations in the third week of March. On March 19 and 20, Home Minister Amit Shah held two separate meetings with senior leaders of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Samajwadi Party (SP). Considering the delimitation as inevitable, the two delegations initially came away largely convinced of the legislation, given the government's promise of a uniform 50% increase in each State's share of Lok Sabha seats.

On March 24, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin reiterated in a post on X that "current proportional representation of States should not be disturbed under any circumstances". His objection was the timing of the extended Budget Session in the middle of the election campaigns and, therefore, he requested that the session be called in June to "enact these historic constitutional amendments for delimitation, increase of seats and continuation of the current share of representation of States." He also wanted a guarantee that such representation would continue for the next 30 years.

In contrast, the Trinamool Congress declined all invitations from the government. Nor did it clearly spell out its position on the legislation, keeping its public interventions focused on the State Assembly election. The party didn't publicly appear equally invested in opposing the Bill.

At an INDIA bloc meeting on April 15, ahead of the three-day sitting of the Budget Session during which the Bills were to be taken up, the Trinamool's deputy leader in the Rajya Sabha, Sagarika Ghose, stated only three to five of the party's Lok Sabha members would be able to attend the session. The party has 28 Lok Sabha members; seven of them eventually skipped the sittings.

On March 23, two other INDIA bloc constituents – NCP (Sharad Pawar) and Shiv Sena (UBT) – met Mr. Shah and government interlocutors in Parliament. Together, these two Maharashtra parties account for 17 Lok Sabha members. The government did not face outright rejection from any of these parties during the consultations.

The Congress and the Left parties were the only ones who decided not to engage with the government and also to run a public campaign against the legislation. In a March 16 letter to Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge saud such a far-reaching legislation could not be brought to Parliament without all-party consultations.

Shift in narrative

The narrative on the issue began to change only in the run-up to the Parliament debate. Several Opposition leaders, including Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and CPI(M) MP John Brittas, argued that even with a pro-rata 50% increase of seats in terms of absolute numbers, the gap in seats between northern and southern States would widen.

On April 13, Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi's opinion piece in *The Hindu* framed the proposed legislation as "delimitation, and not women's reservation". The following day, Mr. Stalin warned the Centre of a massive protest that could "bring the State to a standstill" if the Centre's proposal adversely affected southern States.

Even hours before the vote, the government tried to reach out to the Opposition, with Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal engaging many Opposition parties.

On Friday, when the vote required for a Constitution amendment was taken, the Lok Sabha had 528 members, making the two-thirds majority mark 352. With the NDA present in its full capacity, 298 members voted in favour of the Bill. Still, their tally fell short of the required majority by 54 votes, leading to the Bill's defeat.

Parliament adjourns *sine die* after Bill's defeat

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The extended Budget Session of Parliament adjourned *sine die* on Saturday, a day after the Opposition blocked the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, linking women's reservation with the delimitation exercise, from passing in the Lok Sabha.

Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju accused the Congress of having an anti-women mindset, saying the party would have to face the "wrath" of women for opposing a measure aimed at operationalising 33% reservation.

The session drew to a close with a symbolic first – all six stanzas of *Vande Mataram* were rendered in the Lok Sabha, following a government directive mandating the rendition of the full version at official events and public functions.

In the Rajya Sabha, Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan adjourned proceedings *sine die*, describing the session as productive and substantive. The Upper House functioned for 157 hours and 40 minutes, achieving nearly 110% productivity.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla outlined the functioning of the Lower House before adjourning it *sine die*. The House sat for 31 sittings over 151 hours and 42 minutes, recording a productivity of 93%.

Why was quota law in cold storage, asks Opposition after PM's address

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition leaders sharply criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi's address to the nation, with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge alleging that he violated the Model Code of Conduct by using official machinery to attack political opponents ahead of the Assembly election in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot dared Mr. Modi to seek a fresh mandate, escalating the political confrontation over the Centre's legislative agenda and its timing.

In a post on X, Mr. Kharge accused the Prime Minister of turning an official address into a partisan speech. He said Mr. Modi, "with nothing meaningful to show for the last 12 years", resorted to "mudslinging and outright lies" despite the Model Code of Conduct being in force. Calling it a "travesty of democracy", he alleged that Mr. Modi misused official machinery to target the Opposition.

"Modi*ji* mentioned Congress 59 times and women barely few times. That tells the country everything about his priorities. Women are not the BJP's priority," Mr. Kharge said.

He reiterated that the Congress had consistently supported women's reservation, recalling the passage of the legislation in the Rajya Sabha in 2010 and backing the subsequent law in 2023. He criticised the delay in notifying the law and urged the government to implement 33% reservation within the existing Lok Sabha framework, instead of linking it to delimitation and census exercises.

The Congress chief further accused the government of conflating the women's reservation law with the recent Constitution amendment Bills related to delimitation, alleging that the latter were intended to redraw the electoral map in a manner beneficial to the ruling party.

Echoing similar concerns, Mr. Gehlot said, "Today, Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi said that women would give a strong reply and teach a lesson to the Congress and other Opposition parties. If he is so confident about this, then he should dissolve the Lok Sabha and call for fresh elections on this very issue, seeking a new mandate from the people".

Seeks apology

CPI(M) leader John Brittas also demanded an apology from Mr. Modi, alleging that the women's reservation law had been kept in "cold storage".

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh said a Prime Minister's address to the nation should be non-partisan and aimed at building confidence, but Mr. Modi's speech was a "partisan and polemical attack". "What he should have apologised for is his shameless, deceitful attempts to push through a devious delimitation proposal in the name of women. His *niyat* [intention] is anything but *saaf* [clean]. It is poisonous," Mr. Ramesh said.

'Centre's conspiracy to permanently stay in power thwarted'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

The defeat of the Constitution Amendment Bill linked to women's reservation in the Lok Sabha marks a significant victory for democracy, federalism, and Opposition unity, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra said at a press meet on Saturday.

The Centre's move was a "conspiracy to permanently stay in power" and alter the federal structure "in the garb of women's reservation", Ms. Gandhi alleged, but these attempts had been thwarted by a united Opposition, she said.

She maintained that the Opposition was not opposed to women's reservation, and would support the implementation of the Women's Reservation Act, 2023 on the current strength of the Lok Sabha.

"They thought that if the Bill passes, it is fine. If it fails, we will project the Opposition as anti-women and become the messiah of women. But it is not easy to become the messiah of women. We saw what happened to women in Hathras, [and] what happened to our Olympic medallists and others," she said.

BJP accuses Cong. of 'celebrating' setback to women's quota

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Ravi Shankar Prasad

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Saturday accused the Congress of hypocrisy and prioritising political power over gender equality and women's empowerment, claiming that the party and its allies celebrated the denial of 33% representation to women in Parliament.

At a press conference, a day after the Constitution Amendment Bill proposing to increase the strength of the Lok Sabha and implement reservation for women was defeated, BJP leaders and former Union Ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad and Smriti Irani said the Congress had a "feudal" mindset and that its allies undermined equitable representation, particularly impacting southern States.

Stating that the Congress had a "history" of neglecting women's welfare, Ms. Irani pointed out that the Women's Reservation Bill (Constitution 108th Amendment Bill, 2008) was passed by the Rajya Sabha in 2010 under the UPA rule, but it lapsed as the proposed law was not passed by the Lok Sabha. Whereas, she said, the 33% reservation Bill was passed under the NDA government in both the Houses in 2023.

Ms. Irani said: "Women across the country saw yesterday what transpired in Parliament. The Congress party smiled and thumped desks in celebration for crushing the political aspirations of ordinary women of this country..."

The BJP leader also accused the Congress's allies of "rejoicing" over what she described as a setback for women, who have been struggling politically for years for the demand of 33% representation.

She said for the BJP, the Bill was about ensuring the right to equality. "Today, at the Congress press conference, they taunted that some people in the BJP tried to become 'messiahs'. Such a remark reflects a feudal mindset, of those who think that one ensuring constitutional rights given to any citizen in a democracy must be a 'messiah'," Ms. Irani said.

Mr. Prasad accused the Congress of treating women as political tools rather than respecting them as equal citizens. He said no reorganisation of Lok Sabha or Assembly seats was possible without delimitation. "Population determines how many seats each gets. And the authority for this is the Delimitation Commission," he said.

Mr. Prasad said the 2023 law stated that reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and Assemblies would come into effect after delimitation based on the first census conducted after the amendment. Since the concern was that census and delimitation would take time, delaying proper representation of women, the government had proposed to use the last published census of 2011 for delimitation. "Without delimitation, no readjustment is possible," he said.

Fresh motion to be moved seeking CEC's removal

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

The Opposition parties have decided to again move a motion seeking Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's removal in Parliament.

On March 12, 63 Rajya Sabha members and 130 Lok Sabha members had moved a motion seeking Mr. Kumar's removal as CEC. This was rejected by the chairs of both Houses.

According to sources, the Opposition will be drafting a fresh motion listing new charges against Mr. Kumar. It hopes to increase the number of signatories this time around.

'Why delay the 2023 Act?': women's reservation comes full circle as govt.'s 'U-turn' fails in LS

NEWS ANALYSIS

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam was operationalised on April 16 after a long time of inaction

The issue of 33% reservation for women in the Lok Sabha and State legislatures has come full circle in less than three years since the Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023 – also known as the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam – was passed by Parliament in September 2023.

Clause (1) of Article 334A of the 106th Amendment mandated a three-step process to be done before women's reservation became a reality – the 2023 Act had to come into force, followed by a fresh Census and delimitation exercise.

During the 2023 debate, the Opposition parties had argued for an immediate operationalisation of the Act without waiting for a Census and delimitation. The government had not budged then.

Virtual U-turn

In 2026, with only a few days left for Assembly elections, the government tabled the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026. Through it, the Centre had come around to the Opposition's viewpoint of 2023 to implement women's reservation immediately.

The 131st Constitution Amendment Bill sought to amend Article 334 because a new census and delimitation exercise would "take considerable time and thus, delay the effective participation of women in our democratic polity". It pressed for women's reservation based on the "population figures of the latest published census", which remains the 2011 one.

However, the proposed law failed to garner the special majority in the House on April 17.

Interestingly, the government chose to operationalise the 106th Amendment Act on April 16, even as debates on the 131st Constitution Amendment Act were on. Questions were raised as to why the government particularly opted to bring into force the Act on April 16, after such a long spell of silence and inaction.

The answer may be that the government had not expected the 2026 Amendment to succeed, and so had to fall back, to operationalising the 2023 Constitution Amendment Act.

Reviving a demand

Meanwhile, the Opposition has since rekindled its demand to remove the portion of Article 334A(1) which requires a fresh Census and delimitation to bring in women's reservation.

In fact, the government had lost an opportunity to address the issue before the Supreme Court way back in 2023. At the time, a petition filed by Dr. Jaya Thakur had urged the apex court to declare the clause "void ab-initio" and a violation of Article 14 and had argued that the 106th Constitution Amendment Act must not be made to wait indefinitely for a Census and delimitation, but should be implemented without delay. The court had dismissed the petition as infructuous. Later in 2025, the same petitioner had approached the court again, asking pertinently, "why delay the *vandan*?"

ASSEMBLY POLLS

'Only voters allowed within 100 m of booths'

The Election Commission has put in place a series of measures to ensure free and peaceful voting across 152 constituencies in West Bengal during the first phase of elections on April 23, including demarcating a 100-metre perimeter around each polling station to regulate entry, a senior official said on Saturday.

Booth-level officers (BLOs) and other government staff will remain stationed outside this boundary, where initial verification of voter documents will be carried out, he said.

Within the restricted zone, an additional layer of checking will be in place, requiring voter documents to be verified again at two tables before entry into the polling station. The measure is aimed at preventing bogus voting, the official said. PTI

Security measures are being put in place to prevent bogus voting in booths.

CPI(M) activist claims credit for Bengal SIR plea

The petition in response to which the Supreme Court ordered tribunals to clear the names of voters excluded by the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in West Bengal was based on her plea, Mostari Banu, a CPI(M) activist from Murshidabad said.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has, however, claimed credit for securing the apex court's order.

Ms. Banu, like Ms. Banerjee, had approached the Supreme Court on the issue of exclusion of electors in the West Bengal SIR. Ms. Banu is not contesting in the upcoming West Bengal polls, but she is questioning the SIR process. Ms. Banu is marked as the main petitioner in every order passed on SIR-related issues in West Bengal. The court orders read, 'Mostari Banu versus the Election Commission of India'.

"BJP is trying to divide society, sowing seeds of division among Hindu, Muslims, putting tribals against one another, committing atrocities against Dalits

HEMANT SOREN
Jharkhand CM

BJP announces monthly aid for journalists

The BJP on Saturday announced that it would introduce a monthly allowance of ₹5,000 for journalists in West Bengal if it comes to power in the State. Speaking at the Press Club Kolkata, State BJP President Samik Bhattacharya said the benefit would be extended to all accredited journalists. PTI

"Bengal has unlimited possibilities in every sector, but it has been pushed backwards. The Left and the Trinamool have ruined the State

MOHAN YADAV
Madhya Pradesh CM

Ajay Edwards, an independent candidate contesting the Darjeeling seat. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Darjeeling hills to witness a multi-pronged fight this polls

Shiv Sahay Singh
DARJEELING

The posters demanding a separate State of Gorkhaland have faded on the walls of Darjeeling town. It has been nine years since the region witnessed the last violent movement for a separate State of Gorkhaland in 2017, when the region was cut off from the rest of the country for 100 days and almost a dozen lives were lost.

From the single political agenda of Gorkhaland, the politics of the Darjeeling hills have shifted over the past few years. On March 27, 2026, like different parts of West Bengal, the Darjeeling hills witnessed a large procession on the occasion of Ram Navami. The procession, with hundreds of people waving Hindutva flags, passed through the heart of Darjeeling town.

The Ram Navami procession was organised by the Trinamool Congress-backed Bharatiya Gorkha Prajatantrik Morcha (BGPM) candidate for the Darjeeling Assembly seat, Bijay Kumar Rai. A similar march was organised by the BGPM president Anit Thapa from Ghoom on the same day. Mr. Thapa, who administers the regional autonomous body of Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) with the support of the Trinamool Congress, said that these Ram Navami marches were an indication that "the people of the hills were moving in the right direction". Mr. Thapa emphasises that there has been peace in the region.

On the other side of the political spectrum is the alliance of the Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Noman Rai is the candidate of the GJM-BJM alliance and is contesting from Darjeeling hills. He usually holds meetings inside a dingy party office in the old supermarket of Darjeeling with about two dozen party supporters. There are no BJP flags in the party office, and the candidate sits under a green, white and yellow GJM flag, which has a photograph of Bimal Gurung.

"We are using the BJP symbol this election, but our core commitment lies with the demand of Gorkhaland. We are hoping that the BJP will deliver on the promise of Gorkhaland," he said.

The GJM-BJP candidate said that the people of the Darjeeling hills are pinning their hopes on the tripartite talks and the appointment of an interlocutor by the Government of India. Despite strong opposition from West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the Centre had in October 2025 appointed Pankaj Kumar Singh, former Deputy National Security Adviser, as "interlocutor and government representative" on the issue of "Darjeeling, Dooars and Terai".

The Gorkha Janmukti Morcha president Bimal Gurung, one of the most prominent leaders of the Darjeeling hills who has rallied for the cause of Gorkhaland for the past three decades, has put all his political clout behind the GJM-BJP candidates, particularly Mr. Noman Rai, who is a youth leader from his party. "I will quit politics if my candidate from Darjeeling Assembly hills is defeated," Mr. Gurung, whose influence has been weakening over the past few years, said.

Other than the GJM-BJP and BGPM-Trinamool binary, a new political outfit started by local entrepreneur Ajay Edwards – the Indian Gorkha Janashakti Front – is making waves this election. Mr. Edwards has built his campaign on the issue of corruption in the local bodies and the GJM. The Left parties and Congress are also in the electoral contest, making the fight multi-pronged.

After Lok Sabha bonhomie, Congress says no post-poll ties with Trinamool

Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee chief Subhankar Sarkar tries to dispel reports on the possibility of a post-poll alliance with Trinamool; the Congress is contesting all Assembly seats on its own strength in the State, ending a decade-long understanding with the CPI(M)-led Left Front

IN FOCUS

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Amid newfound bonhomie between the Congress and the Trinamool Congress during the floor coordination in Parliament to defeat the Constitution Amendment Bill, which was part of the delimitation package, the West Bengal unit of the Congress is desperately trying to present itself as an Opposition to the ruling party in the poll-bound State.

As reports emerged that Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had called and thanked Trinamool Congress general secretary Abhishek Banerjee after the Bill was defeated in the Lok Sabha, West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee president Subhankar Sarkar tried to dispel the talk that there was a possibility of a post-poll alliance of his party with the Trinamool.

"There is fake news being circulated on certain television channels and social media claiming that I have offered support to TMC if they fail to prove a majority in the Assembly. This claim is completely false and malicious, intended to mislead Congress workers and voters. I strongly condemn the spread of such misinformation," the State Congress president said in a social media post on Friday.

In the post, Mr. Sarkar said that the Congress is contesting alone to "take on the oppressive politics of both BJP and TMC with equal strength" and "both the BJP and TMC, rattled by the growing popularity of Congress, are resorting to desperate tactics by spreading lies and fabricated statements".

The Congress has decided to contest all the Assembly seats on its own strength in the State, ending a decade-long understanding with the Communist Party of India (Marxist)-led Left Front.

Mr. Sarkar is being perceived as taking a soft stand on the Trinamool when compared to his predecessor Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, who had never shied away from making his political animosity with the Trinamool Congress in public domain.

Possible split in votes

A section of political observers believe that the decision of the Congress to go solo in the 2026 Assembly polls, particularly when the Left parties were keen for an alliance, has paved the way to split the anti-Trinamool Congress vote and help the State's ruling party.

West Bengal Pradesh Congress Committee president Subhankar Sarkar says that the Congress is contesting alone to 'take on the oppressive politics of BJP and Trinamool with equal strength'. PTI

While the vote share of the grand old party has fallen to single digits, the party still holds considerable influence in certain pockets with a significant minority population. The party has fielded Congress veteran Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury from Behrampur in Murshidabad and Mausam Benazir Noor from Malatipur in Malda in this election.

In parts of Malda and Murshidabad, where the deletions due to the special intensive revision (SIR) are significantly high, a section of the electorate has started warming to the Congress. Party candidates have also put up a strong campaign and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi held public meetings in their support. On April 14, Mr. Gandhi held three public meetings across Uttar Dinajpur, Malda and Murshidabad, where he took on the Trinamool Congress. The Congress leader accused the Trinamool of "paving the way for the BJP in West Bengal" and criticised the party for the flight of industries from the State.

No permanent position

Asked about the possibility of a post-poll alliance, veteran West Bengal Congress leader Pradip Bhattacharya told *The Hindu* that the question is not for consideration at the moment but there is no permanent positioning in politics. "We are not thinking about any post-poll alliance. We are in the middle of the election battle. But there are no permanent positions in politics. The stand taken by the West Bengal Congress should be in the interest of our people of the State and the existence of our party in West Bengal. It may not always align with national politics," the octogenarian Congress leader, who has been campaigning for the party, said.

The Congress played a key role in removing the 34-year-long Left Front government in 2011 Assembly polls when the Trinamool led by Mamata Banerjee had allied with the grand old party.

However, after the Trinamool Congress came to power, the Congress started losing its strongholds and MLAs to the ruling party.

Hardline leaders in the Congress like Mr. Chowdhury have often accused the Trinamool of systematically engineering defections in the party through fear or inducements.

If the Assembly elections scheduled in West Bengal on April 23 and 29 throws a hung mandate, the Congress may emerge as the key to power in the Assembly.

Periyar's historic Fargo van undergoes repairs in Tiruchi

Nahla Nainar
TIRUCHI

A Fargo van gifted to Periyar E.V. Ramasamy, the founder of the Dravida Kazhagam (DK) in August 19, 1973, is being repaired and given a makeover in Tiruchi to further preserve its iconic status in Tamil politics. Parked in a glass-fronted enclosure adjoining the leader's residence at Periyar Maaligai, a 2.5-acre estate in Puthur, the vehicle is a familiar sight for those passing by the neighbourhood.

A board informs visitors that a golden key to the van, with the number plate 'TMZ 9595', was gifted by then Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi to Periyar at a ceremony in Thanjavur. A sum of ₹1 lakh was estimated to have been collected from the public in 1973 to buy the van. The then-DK general secretary K.Veeramani raised ₹1.5 lakh and gifted ₹50,000 to Periyar during the inaugural function.

"The van was fitted with a bed, and since Periyar was over 94 years old at the time, he was unable to board or disembark frequently from the vehicle. So it was designed in such a way that one section could be opened and balanced on a stand, that would allow him to see the public as if from a stage. He used the van for four months, spreading the message of social justice and self-respect, before he passed away on December 24, 1973. He attended his last public meeting in this van in Thiyagaraja Nagar, Chennai, when he fell ill and had to be taken to a hospital in Vellore. It is an important part of our State's political heritage," V. Anburaj, general secretary, Dravida Kazhagam, told *The Hindu* on Saturday.

Workers carrying out repairs on the Fargo van at Periyar Maaligai in Tiruchi. NAHLA NAINAR

A sum of ₹1 lakh was estimated to have been collected from the public in 1973 to buy the Fargo van

Due to the passage of time, finding the original spare parts for the vehicle has been a difficult task.

Despite this, the van will be spruced up with available resources and given a fresh coat of paint before it is prepared for public display again, said Mr. Anburaj. "We are planning to add the Fargo van as one of the attractions in the Periyar World museum coming up in Siruganur, along with Periyar's other personal effects," he said.

"Since it has been decommissioned for a long time, we felt that both the van and its display enclosure needed to be overhauled, to help the younger generation understand its significance in Tamil Nadu's political history," said M. Suresh Babu of Essar Sign Industries, the Tiruchi-based firm sponsoring the refurbishment.

DMK, Congress derailed our noble effort, says PM

The Hindu Bureau
COIMBATORE

The BJP and the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) will continue to fight for the rights of women, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said here on Saturday.

Speaking at a public meeting, campaigning for 23 candidates of the NDA contesting from Coimbatore, Tiruppur, and the Nilgiris districts, he said that in 2023, the Centre passed the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, or the women's reservation Act.

He went on to claim that on April 16 this year, the government took a "historic step" to implement 33% reservation for women in Parliament and Legislative Assemblies. "I appealed personally to political parties and sought their support. I told them they may take the credit; I have no objection. I only want sisters from ordinary families to come to Parliament and Assemblies in greater numbers. But, unfortunately, this noble effort was derailed. The DMK, Congress, and their allies made it a target of hatred and petty politics. Had the Bill been passed, many Tamil women from ordinary families would have become MPs and MLAs. Going by the 2011 Census, Tamil Nadu was going to get so many more seats. But, clearly, the DMK did not want this to happen. By wearing black clothes, the DMK cannot cover up its intentions. I want to tell the DMK that people know your black deeds. You cannot escape your black deeds any longer," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi greets the crowd as he arrives at a public meeting in Coimbatore on Saturday. M. PERIASAMY

"I assure the people of the State that this is not the end of our fight. This is just the beginning. The BJP and the NDA will continue to fight for your rights."

'NDA in, DMK out'

The DMK earlier said that current proportional representation should be maintained (in the Delimitation Bill). "The Union government did that. But, now it took a U-turn. It troubled the DMK and the Congress to see ordinary women come up. The one-family parties want power to remain confined to their families," he said.

"The people of the State are giving one clear message - NDA is in, DMK is out," Mr. Modi claimed. The Union government had given more than ₹14 lakh crore to the State in the last 11 years through devolution of funds and for highways, airports, railways and welfare schemes. "Two things have increased to record levels in Tamil Nadu - one family's wealth and Tamil Nadu's debts. The State's top family is becoming richer while the debt of each individual is increasing," he said.

"This election is about Tamil Nadu's future. When the NDA comes to power in the State, law and order will be restored and safety of women will be its priority," Mr. Modi said.

INBRIEF

Cabinet clears ₹24,815 cr. projects across U.P., A.P.

The Union Cabinet approved two multi-tracking projects covering 15 districts across Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh costing ₹24,815 crore on Saturday, increasing the existing Indian Railways network by about 601 km. The project is slated to be completed by 2030-31. The proposals are poised to streamline operations and alleviate congestion, sources said. In Uttar Pradesh, Ghaziabad-Sitapur third and fourth Line covering 403 km has been approved. Ghaziabad-Sitapur is an existing double line section forming a key part of the Delhi-Guwahati High Density Network. The section's line capacity is 168%, projected to rise to 207% if the project is not taken up.

Cabinet approves 2% increase in dearness allowance

The Union Cabinet on Saturday approved the release of an additional instalment of dearness allowance (DA) to Central government employees and dearness relief (DR) to pensioners. The increase will be effective from January 1 . A press release said the increase would be 2% over the existing rate of 58% of the basic pay/pension. The combined impact on the exchequer on account of the increase will be ₹6,791.24 crore. This will benefit about 50.46 lakh government employees and 68.27 lakh pensioners. The increase is based on the recommendation of the Seventh Central Pay Commission. PTI

High Court defers order for filing an FIR against Rahul

The Allahabad High Court has deferred its order directing the registration of an FIR against the Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, over allegations relating to his nationality, observing that a person suspected of an offence was entitled to be heard before a decision was taken in criminal revision proceedings. A Bench of Justice Subhash Vidyarthi said that though the decision had earlier been dictated in open court, it was held back before being formally signed after the court came across a 2014 full Bench ruling in Jagannath Verma versus State of Uttar Pradesh. The Bench has posted the matter for hearing on April 20.

Address representation gaps in Sixth Schedule areas: MPs

Three MPs from Assam on Saturday said any discussion in Parliament on delimitation and women's representation must factor in the unique historical, political, demographic, cultural, and strategic realities of the northeastern region comprising eight States. The MPs are United People's Party Liberal president Pramod Boro, and fellow party members Rwngwra Narzary and Joyanta Basumatary. The MPs, in a joint statement, said the northeast, despite its vast diversity and international frontier, has borne a disproportionate burden of conflict, neglect, fragility, and political marginalisation.

SUDOKU

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	7	8	2	4	5	6	3	1
2	6	4	1	3	7	5	9	8
1	3	5	8	6	9	4	2	7
4	5	9	3	7	2	1	8	6
6	2	7	9	8	1	3	4	5
3	8	1	4	5	6	9	7	2
8	1	6	7	9	3	2	5	4
5	4	3	6	2	8	7	1	9
7	9	2	5	1	4	8	6	3

Two killed in an ambush on vehicles on Manipur highway

Police say suspected extremists fired at convoy in Ukhrul; two Tangkhul Naga men killed in attack; Naga organisation blames Kuki armed groups; CM says govt. is ready to hand over probe to NIA

Rahul Karmakar
GUWAHATI

Suspected extremists ambushed the vehicles of civilians on National Highway no. 202 in Manipur's Ukhrul district on Saturday, killing two Tangkhul Naga men, one a retired soldier.

The attack occurred at 2.35 p.m near Yaolen Kuki village, about 4 km from Litan on the highway linking Ukhrul town and Imphal. Tension has been prevailing in the Litan area since February 7, when a localised fight snowballed into a conflict between the Kuki and Tangkhul Naga communities.

The attack came a day after Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand Singh met villagers along the highway as part of a mission to "remove the trust deficit" between the Kukis and Tangkhuls.

The deceased were identified as 45-year-old Chinaoshang Shokwungnao, who served in the Army's Naga Regiment, and 42-year-old Yaruingam Vashum. Both hailed from Ukhrul.

The local police said bullets hit six vehicles when unidentified extremists opened fire on a convoy of vehicles travelling towards Ukhrul from Imphal.

Protest at Jantar Mantar in solidarity with Manipur victims, seeking justice for attacked civilians and children. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

A district official said the State government started providing security escorts to civilian vehicles between Mahadev and an area beyond Litan, given the intermittent violence between the two communities. "The incident was reported from beyond the stretch where escorts are provided. We believe snipers could have shot the passengers with long-range rifles," he said.

The Working Committee of Tangkhul Naga Long (TNL), the apex social body of the community, said members of the Kuki armed groups were involved in the attack. "...Ever since the conflict between Tangkhul Nagas and Kukis started in early February, Kuki militants have been openly attacking civilians in Litan, Laho, Sinakeithei, Sikibung, and Thawai," the TNL said in a statement.

It said women, children, and ailing persons were in the vehicles that came under the attack, "carried out as soon as the escort team returned toward Litan".

The TNL demanded that the government immediately undertake a combing operation at Yaolen and adjoining Kuki villages.

The Kuki-Zo Council, an apex community-based organisation, denied the involvement of Kuki individuals or groups in the incident. "It appears to be linked to prevailing tensions among certain factional groups, rather than the handiwork of any Kuki-Zo group. It is deeply regrettable that, without proper verification or credible evidence, blame is hastily attributed to the Kuki-Zo community," it said in a statement.

Condemning the ambush, the Chief Minister said the government would request the National Investigation Agency (NIA) to take over the case.

Shutdown from today

Meanwhile, women's groups and civil society organisations in the Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley announced a five-day State-wide shutdown from Sunday to protest the government's failure to arrest those involved in a recent bomb attack that claimed the lives of two children in Bishnupur district.

The organisations set April 25 as the deadline for authorities to arrest the minors' killers.

India calls envoy after ships stopped in Strait of Hormuz

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Ambassador of Iran to India Mohammad Fathali exiting the MEA premises on Saturday.

Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri on Saturday met Iran's ambassador to India Mohammad Fathali and conveyed India's "deep concern" after two India-bound energy-carrying vessels were prevented from transiting the Strait of Hormuz by Iranian naval guards.

This is the first instance of India-bound energy carriers being prevented by the naval units of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) of Iran during the ongoing fortnight-long ceasefire in the U.S.-Iran conflict, which came into effect on April 8.

A day earlier, Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi had said that the Strait of Hormuz was "completely open" for the remaining period of the ceasefire.

Shooting incident

"During the meeting, Foreign Secretary conveyed India's deep concern at the shooting incident earlier today involving two Indian-flagged ships in the Strait of Hormuz. He noted the importance that India attached to the safety of merchant shipping and mariners and recalled that Iran had earlier facilitated the safe passage of several ships bound for India," said the MEA adding that Foreign Secretary Misri "urged the Ambassador to convey India's views to the authorities in Iran and resume at the earliest the process of facilitating India-bound ships across the Strait."

The MEA has not described the meeting as a "summoning" and has said the ambassador was "called in".

Mr. Misri had represented India in an international meeting that was organised virtually by the United Kingdom and France on Friday where at least 44 countries discussed the need for maintaining free and open navigation in the Strait of Hormuz.

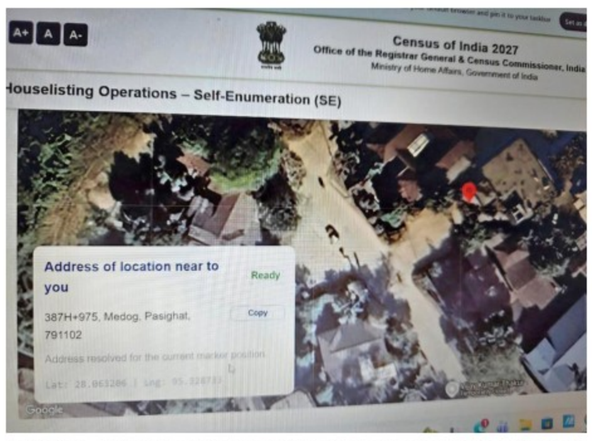
Census portal shows Chinese name for a town in Arunachal Pradesh; issue resolved

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

A retired Indian Air Force (IAF) officer raised concerns on Saturday that the self-enumeration portal for the ongoing Census exercise wrongly depicted Pasighat in Arunachal Pradesh as a town named Medog in China.

Following this, the Census officials said on Saturday evening that the issue has been resolved.

"An issue was mentioned during Self-Enumeration... regarding map location in Pasighat, East Siang District in Arunachal Pradesh today. The issue was raised with map services provider and it has been resolved," the Registrar-General and Census Commissioner of India posted on X.


Census of India 2027
Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, India
Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India
Houselisting Operations – Self-Enumeration (SE)
Address of location near to you
Ready
387H+975, Medog, Pasighat, 791102
Copy
Address resolved for the current marker position
Google

India has, many times, rejected China's attempt to rename places in Arunachal Pradesh. @MONTYPANGING/X

Earlier in the day, Group Captain Mohonto Panging Pao (retired), a resident of Pasighat, took to the social media platform to draw attention to the issue, sharing coordinates that said "Medog, Pasighat." While Pasighat is the oldest town in Arunachal, Medog is across the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in China.

"During self-Enumeration attempt... showing Pasighat, East Siang District, Arunachal Pradesh as 'Medog'! Medog is a town in China... Even official govt. portals are virtually ceding our territory! Needs urgent intervention!" he said on X. The retired officer told *The Hindu* that he noticed the wrong name in his second attempt logging in the portal.

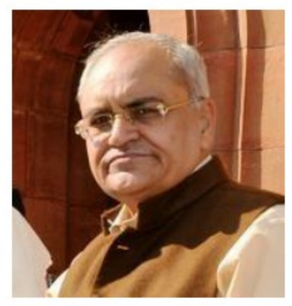
"China has been renaming our territories. When we switch on our mobile or laptop, the location says Medog or Nyingchi, which are places in China. It is a sensitive issue. I could not complete the self-enumeration after seeing the wrong name," he said.

"Government chose Google...whose current CEO is of Indian origin. Despite that, Google Maps always depicts places/areas in Arunachal Pradesh controversially, ceding territory virtually to China," he said.

India has, on several occasions, rejected China's attempt to rename places in Arunachal Pradesh.

On April 12, India reiterated its rejection of China's attempts at assigning "fictitious names to places which form part of the territory of India." The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), in a statement, said: "Such attempts by China at introducing false claims and manufacturing baseless narratives cannot alter the undeniable reality that these places and territories, including Arunachal Pradesh, were, are, and will always remain an integral and inalienable part of India".

Until 2011, data was collected on paper schedules, with maps of house listing blocks prepared manually which were later digitised through scanning.



Balbir Punj

Former MP and BJP leader Balbir Punj dies

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Former Rajya Sabha member, journalist and senior BJP leader Balbir Punj, 76, passed away on Saturday evening after being ill for some time.

Punj, a former vice-president of the BJP and associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) from a young age, had a long career in public life – in politics and policy circles, and in the media. He began his career as a journalist in 1971 with the newspaper *The Motherland*, later serving for two decades at the *Financial Express*, and then as executive editor of *The Observer of Business and Politics* from May 1996 to March 2000.

He served two terms as a member of the Rajya Sabha, between 2000 and 2006 from Uttar Pradesh and 2008 and 2014 from Odisha. He also served as the chairperson of the National Commission for Youth, which is accorded Minister of State status in the Central government.

He was regarded as an important figure in terms of contributing to the BJP's public policy interventions and stances, as well as an author, penning *Tryst with Ayodhya: Decolonisation of India* (Kitab Wale).

Punj had also been actively involved in journalistic institutions.

He served as President of the Delhi Journalists Association for two consecutive terms between 1989 and 1991 and was general secretary of the National Union of Journalists from 1993 to 1995.

Separatist leader in J&K re-arrested in 1996 case

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR/JAMMU

A special court of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in Jammu on Saturday granted a 10-day remand of the banned Democratic Freedom Party chief Shabir Shah, 72, to the investigating agency, three weeks after the Supreme Court granted him bail in another case.

Mr. Shah, who was arrested in Delhi on Friday, was produced before an NIA court in Jammu, which granted 10-day remand for questioning in a three-decade-old case. The NIA had secured a transit remand of three days after producing him before the Patiala House Court in Delhi. He has been re-arrested in a 1996 case linked to the funeral of militant Hilal Ahmad Beigh, killed in an encounter in Srinagar.

NMC proposes to ease norms for establishing new medical colleges

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

The National Medical Commission (NMC) has now proposed significant draft amendments to its 2023 regulations, focusing on easing the norms for establishment of medical colleges – allowing in more trusts and societies. It is also looking at tightening postgraduate (PG) medical education standards, and introducing a single-State licence for Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) doctors to practise nationwide.

The Commission, in its latest notice, has invited comments until May 7, on its proposed amendments to the "Registration of Medical Practitioners and Licence to Practice Medicine (Amendment), Regulations 2026".

"The draft regulations aim to tighten regulatory control over the quality of education while streamlining the processes for setting up institutions and regulating military medical personnel," said a senior Health Ministry official.

A total of 43 new medical colleges have been established across the country for the academic year 2025–26. FILE PHOTO

Addressing the administrative burden of frequent transfers, the NMC has proposed easing transfer-related paperwork by allowing AFMS doctors to register once with a State medical council at commissioning, with the licence valid nationwide during active service. Retired doctors will need to re-register in their State of practice.

The annual renewal of licence will be centrally managed so that licences will not go inactive due to delayed, individually filed renewals and the registration council will handle professional misconduct cases, with recommendations from the State where the incident occurred.

For more stringent standardisation in PG medical education, the Commission has asked all medical colleges to adhere to updated infrastructure, faculty, and clinical facilities criteria with standalone PG institutes to have 220 beds, with at least 80% bed occupancy, a revised senior faculty-student ratio of 1:2 and limiting non-government colleges to a maximum of four seats when starting a new PG course or increasing intake.

A total of 43 new medical colleges have been established across the country for the academic year 2025-26 and the Centre has approved 11,682 MBBS seats and 8,967 PG seats across the country for the said academic year, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Anupriya Patel said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

INBRIEF

HDFC Bank net profit rises 9% in Q4; to pay ₹13 dividend

HDFC Bank profit after tax (PAT) increased 9% to ₹19,221 crore as India's largest lender reduced provisions by 18% in the fourth quarter of fiscal 2025-26. The bank clocked a PAT of ₹17,616 crore a year earlier. Net interest income, the difference between interest earned and paid, grew at a slower pace of 3.2% to ₹33,080 crore in Q4 from ₹32,070 crore in the year-earlier period. Net interest margin stood at 3.38% of the total assets in the reporting quarter, only slightly lower than the 3.5% a year earlier. Other income rose 9.7% to ₹13,198.8 crore. The lender showed improvement in asset quality with gross NPAs at 1.15% in the reporting quarter against 1.33% in the year-earlier period. The bank announced a final dividend of ₹13 per share. "With this, the total dividend for the year ended March 31, 2026 would be ₹15.50 per equity share of ₹1 each for the year ended March 31, 2026," the bank said.

ICICI Bank Q4 net climbs 8.5%; to pay ₹12 dividend

ICICI Bank profit after tax in the fourth quarter ended March 31, 2026 climbed 8.5% to ₹13,702 crore as it slashed provisions by 89.2%. Net interest income increased 8.5% to ₹22,979 crore in the last quarter of the fiscal 2025-26 from ₹21,193 crore a year earlier. Net interest margin stood at 4.26% of the total assets in the reporting quarter, only slightly lower than the 4.41% in the same quarter last year. Despite muted growth in net interest income, a fall in provisions to ₹96.2 crore in the reporting quarter from ₹890.7 crore cushioned the PAT growth. The bank's other income increased by a marginal 0.6% to ₹7,308.99 crore. The lender also exhibited an improvement in asset quality with gross NPAs at 1.4% in the reporting quarter against 1.67% in the year-earlier period. Gross deposits rose 10.8% to ₹16.4 lakh crore while gross advances increased 15.8% to ₹15.5 lakh crore. The bank's board recommended a dividend of ₹ 12 per share.

Eight India-bound ships return after trying to cross strait

The government earmarked 22 ships carrying energy cargo to India for repatriation in coordination with Iranian agencies and Indian Navy

M. Kalyanaraman
Debayan Tewari
CHENNAI

Sanmar Herald, fired at by Iranian forces, was among some seven Indian-flagged vessels that sought to cross the Strait of Hormuz on Friday-Saturday and returned to the Persian Gulf, as per marinetraffic.com.

Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) crude oil tanker Desh Garima, which went to Persian Gulf for drydock repairs, exited the strait, as per the tracker site.

Sanmar Herald, owned by Sanmar Shipping and chartered by IOC, was carrying some 2 million barrels crude. It had gone farthest into the strait and crossed Larak Island too.

Sanmar Group told *The Hindu* that Sanmar Herald suffered no damage. Another crude oil carrier Sanmar Suparna had gone for dry docking and is still in the Persian Gulf and has reported safe.

Desh Vibhor, owned by SCI and chartered by Reliance, carrying 2 million barrels of fuel oil and Kuwaiti crude, was another very large crude carrier that returned. It changed course from south of Hengam Island. Container ships CMA CGM Diamond and CMA CGM Manaus crossed Larak Island when they were rerouted to Persian Gulf. Oil tanker Desh Suraksha returned from near south of Larak island. Jag Arnav, a bulk carrier owned by Great Eastern Shipping Corporation, also returned.

On boil: UKMTO sent out alerts on a tanker being fired upon by 'two gunboats linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guards. REUTERS

Marshall Island-flagged India-bound LPG tanker DV Sarv Shakti, returned from near Larak Island.

Repatriation to India

The Indian government earmarked 22 ships carrying energy cargo to India for repatriation to the country. The exercise was carried out as per instructions and coordination by the government with Iranian agencies and involved Indian Navy as well.

Iran's Tasmin news agency reported the Supreme National Security Council "stressed Tehran will continue strict monitoring and control over the Strait of Hormuz until the U.S.-Israeli war of aggression fully ends."

On Friday, *AFP* quoted Jakob Larsen, chief security officer of BIMCO, a shipping association, as saying, "The status of mine threats in (Iran's maritime) traffic separation scheme is unclear. BIMCO believes shipping firms should consider avoiding the area."

Fired upon

Meanwhile, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) sent out alerts a tanker was fired upon by 'two gunboats linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guards' 20 nautical miles northeast of Oman. The captain said the gunboats fired without issuing a radio challenge adding crew was safe.

A container ship was hit by a projectile 25 nautical miles northeast of Oman, UKMTO said, adding that a few containers were damaged but there was no fire and immediate casualties.

Texprocil rejects USTR claims on Indian cotton textiles

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

The Cotton Textiles Export Promotion Council –Texprocil– has submitted a representation to the United States Trade Representative (USTR) rejecting claims of excess capacity and forced labour in the Indian cotton textiles sector.

Responding to the Section 301 probes, Texprocil filed a submission on April 15 refuting the inclusion of India's cotton textiles sector in the probes.

Vijay Agarwal, chairman of the Council, said the Indian cotton textile industry was driven by strong domestic demand with a small percentage going toward exports. The industry is largely demand-driven, with more than 80% of the output going to the domestic market. "Any adverse action under Section 301 will be inconsistent with ground realities and can disrupt a mutually-beneficial trade relationship between India and the U.S.", he said.

The sector was facing several capacity constraints.

'Stagnation, decline'

"India is not an export-surplus economy in cotton textiles and the production trends across cotton, yarn, and fabric segments show stagnation or decline, not expansion indicative of excess capacity," he added.

Vice-chairman of the Council Ravi Sam added the Indian textile ecosystem was highly fragmented with lakhs of micro, small and medium-scale enterprises (MSMEs) involved in production activities. There were several capacity constraints, not excess. Further, the industry was a major buyer of U.S. cotton.

Texprocil's ED Siddhartha Rajagopal said India had a comprehensive and enforceable legal framework, including four modern Labour Codes (2019-2020) governing wages, industrial relations, social security, and working conditions. Combined with corporate governance norms, ESG disclosures, and advanced traceability systems, textile exports were not linked to any form of forced labour.

The Council also submitted mandatory ESG disclosures for top listed companies and supply chain due diligence and traceability systems, including Texprocil's blockchain-enabled platforms such as Kasturi Cotton Bharat and General Certificate of Conformity.

India approves $1.4 billion maritime insurance pool

Reuters
MUMBAI

India approved a ₹129.8-billion-rupee ($1.4 billion) guarantee for a maritime insurance pool, a Minister said on Saturday, as wars and sanctions prompt insurers to withdraw cover, threatening trade flows.

The pool will run for 10 years and can be extended by a further five years, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said.

Geopolitical tensions

"There was a need for a domestic maritime risk covering pool to maintain sovereignty and continuity of trade in the face of withdrawal of coverage due to sanctions or due to geopolitical tensions," according to a statement issued by the Union government.

Several major reinsurers, including India's only state-backed reinsurer GIC Re have either withdrawn cover or sharply raised premiums, leaving the industry with limited reinsurance support, *Reuters* reported earlier this month.

The Centre said separately it also raised inflation-linked allowances by 2%, starting January 1. India's CPI rose to 3.40% year-on-year in March from 3.21% in February.

'Mutual fund body spent 90% investor awareness fund on digital media'

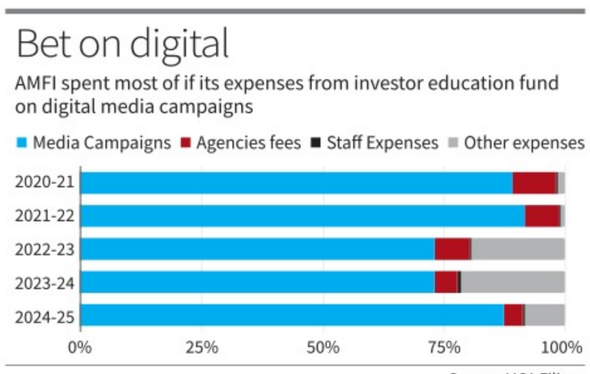
Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The Association of Mutual Funds of India (AMFI), the industry lobby group for asset management companies, spent 87.5% of the investor awareness and education fund on media campaigns via digital platforms and an advertising agency, AMFI filings with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) show.

Analysing the five-year expenditure data on investment awareness fund, it was found most of the money was spent on either digital media campaigns or fees for PR agencies.

As of fiscal 2024-25, AMFI spent about ₹362.5 crore from the fund, the largest corpus with the non-profit organisation. As much as 87.5% of it or ₹317 crore, appeared under the head "Media campaigns (Google, Facebook and Dentsu)."

The share of this line item has consistently been either at 90% or a little lower between 2020-21 and 2024-25, the five years for which *The Hindu* carried out the analysis. In only two fiscal years, 2022-23 and 2023-24, this share slid to 73% but was roughly compensated by another line item – "Other expenses (PMG, Value Research, Skilled, etc.)," constituting about 20% of the total expense. PMG, a popular sports management firm, reportedly tied up with the MF body for its *"Mutual Fund Sahi Hai"* campaign (meaning Mutual Fund is the right investment), which featured cricketing legends Sachin Tendulkar and Mahendra Singh Dhoni among others.



Source: MCA Filings

SEBI mandate

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the capital markets watchdog, mandated AMCs must set aside at least 0.02% of Assets Under Management (AUM) for financial literacy initiatives. Half of that is used by the AMCs for own campaigns and the other needs to be pooled together with the association. The balance in the fund as of fiscal 2024-25 was more than ₹1,114 crore, up 30% from the previous year.

The AUM is the total unit holder money managed by the AMCs. This effectively means investors are funding the awareness initiatives. While campaigns are popular, it raised questions on effectiveness.

The investor awareness programme leans more towards promotion than education, said a person with direct knowledge of the matter.

"It is more important to teach the investors about the risk-reward relationship in different asset classes," the person said. Investment should be made more on educational content and tying up with school curriculum, the person continued. Queries sent to AMFI's spokespersons on campaign outcome and balance fund allocation across online and offline activities did not elicit response till press time.

The current norms on investor awareness have a blind spot regarding the type of initiatives, said Sonam Chandwani, managing partner, KS Legal & Associates. "This creates a risk of form-over-substance compliance, where campaigns may satisfy regulatory checklists without necessarily improving financial literacy or investor outcomes in any measurable way," she said.

She suggested there be "periodic content audits, outcome-based assessments and standardisation of messaging principles to ensure that investor education" drives actually end up making investors better.

SEBI Chairperson Tuhin Kanta Pandey said the board plans to bring all stakeholders, including AMFI, on board to address these concerns.

SEC, Adanis jointly seek extension in U.S. case

Press Trust of India
NEW YORK

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and Indian businessmen Gautam Adani and Sagar Adani have jointly requested a U.S. court for more time to file key submissions in a civil securities case, proposing a revised schedule for motions and responses.

In a filing before the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, the parties said they had conferred in line with the court's April 7 directive and agreed on a new timeline, which has been submitted for approval to Judge Nicholas G Garaufis.

The SEC had sued Adani Group founder Gautam Adani and his nephew, Sagar, in November 2024, alleging they had misled investors by failing to disclose an alleged bribery scheme tied to Indian state officials, framing the case under U.S. securities laws.

Denying all allegations, the two, through lawyers, on April 7, filed a pre-motion letter ahead of a planned April 30 motion, seeking dismissal of a fraud lawsuit, arguing the case represents an impermissible extraterritorial application of U.S. law and fails for lack of personal jurisdiction.

Under the proposed schedule, the defendant's (Adanis) motion to dismiss would be due by June 8, the SEC's amended complaint or opposition by August 7 and the defendants' reply by September 21. The parties also suggested May 20, May 22 or May 29 as potential dates for a pre-motion conference.

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (PROJECT)
PUBLIC HEALTH ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT, BHARATPUR
Chambal Head Works Mallah Road, Bharatpur (321001)
E-mail:-aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

Notice Inviting Bid No. 07, 08 & 09/2024-25
Corrigendum No. 10

Due to unavoidable circumstances bid submission date of this office NIT no. 07/2024-25, 08/2024-25 & 09/2024-25 has extended and last date of submission has been made as date **18.06.2026**. Other terms and conditions will remain as per Tender Document.

UBN No: NIT 07/2024-25: PHE2425WLOB07196 (NIB Code: PHE2425A3393)
NIT 08/2024-25: PHE2425WLOB07199 (NIB Code: PHE2425A3394)
NIT 09/2024-25: PHE2425WLOB07201 (NIB Code: PHE2425A3395)

(Surendra Sharma)
Addl. Chief Engineer (P)
DIPR/C/6985/2026 **RajKaj Ref No.: 21591524** **PHED Bharatpur, Rajasthan**

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Bharatpur
E-mail :- aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in, acepbpr@gmail.com

Notice Inviting Bid No. 06/2024-25, Corrigendum No. 14

Due to unavoidable circumstances bid submission date of this office NIT no. 06/2024-25 has extended and last date of submission has been made as date **18.06.2026**. Other terms and conditions will remain as per Tender Documents.

UBN No: PHE2425WLOB07194

NIB Code: PHE2425A3392

(Surendra Sharma)
Addl. Chief Engineer (P)
DIPR/C/6986/2026 **RajKaj Ref No.: 21591763** **PHED Bharatpur, Rajasthan**

Office of the Principal, Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Government Institute of Medical Science & Research, Srinagar (Garhwal), Uttarakhand.
Phone: 01346-244701

E-mail: principalvcsg@gmail.com
L.No. MC/Interview/2026-27 / 385

Website: vcsgsrinagar.org
Date- 17/4/2026

"Walk-In-Interview"

A Walk-In-Interview for the following vacant posts of Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Govt. Institute of Medical Science & Research, Srinagar Garhwal will be **held on 28 April 2026 (Tuesday) 10:00 AM onwards in the "Venue Administrative Block, Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Government Institute of Medical Science & Research, Srikot, Srinagar Garhwal"** Registration will be done on the day of Interview till 01:00 PM only. The Posts will be filled on yearly renewal contract basis for a maximum period of 03 (Three) years or till regular appointments are made.

Designation	Department wise details
Professor (12)	Forensic Medicine-01, Community Medicine-01, General Medicine-01, Respiratory Medicine -01, Psychiatry-01, ENT-01, Emergency Medicine-01, Radiodiagnosis-01, Cardiology-01, Urology-01, Nephrology-01, Plastic Surgery-01.
Associate Professor (30)	Physiology-01*, Biochemistry-01*, Pathology-01*, Microbiology-01*, Pharmacology-01, Forensic Medicine-01, Community Medicine-01, General Medicine-03, Dermatology-01, Paediatrics-01, General Surgery- 03, Orthopaedics-01, Ophthalmology-02, Obstetrics & Gynecology -02, Radiodiagnosis-01, Radiotherpy-01, Anaesthesia-01, Emergency Medicine-01, PMR-01, Neurosurgery-01, Nephrology-01, Cardiology-01, Urology-01, Plastic Surgery-01.
Assistant Professor (40)	Anatomy-02*, Physiology-02*, Biochemistry-01*, Blood Bank-01, Microbiology-01, Pharmacology-01, Forensic Medicine-02, General Medicine-04, Respiratory Medicine-02, Dermatology-01, Paediatrics-03, General Surgery-04, Orthopaedics-04, Ophthalmology-01, Obs & Gynecology-03, Radiodiagnosis-01, Radiotherpy-01, Anaesthesiology-02, PMR-01, Nephrology-01, Urology-01, Plastic Surgery-01.
Medical Officer for Health Centre (02)	RHTC-01 UHTC-01
Casualty Medical Officer (02)	Emergency Medicine-02

Emoluments: -

1- Professor – Rs. 2,25,000/- Per month + MTDCS** (Rs. 71500/-) = Gross: 2,96,500/- Rs. +(Ann. increment Rs.6,000/-) Per year
2- Associate Professor – Rs. 1,65,000/- Per month + MTDCS** (Rs. 61500/-) = Gross: 2,26,500/- Rs. + (Ann. increment Rs.6,000/-) Per year
3- Assistant Professor – Rs. 1,25,000/- Per month + MTDCS** (Rs. 47500/-) = Gross: 1,72,500/- Rs. + (Ann. increment Rs.3,600/-) Per year

****Medical Teachers Deficiency Compensatory Scheme: As per G.O. No- 79293/XXVIII(5)/2022-(E-22311) Date 28/11/2022.**

Eligible Qualification: - For Emergency Medicine as per NMC (TEQ) Regulation 2022: MS (General Surgery), MS (Orthopedics), MD (General Medicine), MD (Respiratory Medicine), MD (Anesthesia).

Note:- (1) Only MD/MS Candidates Shall be considered for faculty position in all Pre-Clinical and Para- Clinical Specialties.

Emoluments for Super Specialist & Radiodiagnosis only: - As per G.O. No-236506/XXVIII (5)/2024- (E-52419) Dated: -02 September, 2024 and Letter No 3554/चि0शि0/03(मेडिकल)/246/2014 दिनांक 16/05/25.

1- Professor – Rs. 4, 40,000/- Per month + (Ann. increment 7%) Per year.
2- Associate Professor – Rs. 3,50,000/- Per month + (Ann. increment 7%) Per year.
3- Assistant Professor – Rs. 2,50,000/- Per month + (Ann. increment 10%) Per year.

Age & Qualification - As per NMC norms. Reservation - As per Uttarakhand Government. Accommodation: As per availability/House Rent.

No TA/DA will be admissible for attending the interview. The chairman Interview committee reserves the right to accept/reject any application without assigning any reason. Number of Posts advertised may be increased or decreased as per requirement. Candidate must bring their resume along with original MBBS, MD/MS degree, medical council Registration certificate, Basic course in medical education technology including AETCOM, BCBR-basic course in biomedical research, Experience certificate, NOC (From Present working Place) and Undergraduate/Postgraduate teaching certificate, 02 Recent passport size color photographs and a set of Photocopies thereof.

Principal/Dean
VCSGGIMS&R
Srinagar Garhwal.

Aerobic exercise creates a muscle protein that boosts mouse memory

D.P. Kasbekar

Researchers from Seoul National University and the Korea Brain Research Institute have found that aerobic exercise can prompt mice to produce a protein that helps the brain consolidate short-term memories into long-term ones.

The researchers moved an individual mouse from its home cage to a 'shock cage', allowed it to habituate for 3 minutes, then subjected it to a two-second electric shock paired with a pulse of white noise. A minute later, the mouse was returned to the home cage. The next day, the mouse was again moved to the shock cage, habituated for 3 minutes, then only the noise pulse was given. Upon hearing it, in most instances, the mice froze as they associated the sound with the unpleasant memory of the shock.

Second, the researchers moved mice into a test cage with identical objects placed at two corners, allowing them 5 minutes to explore the objects. The next day, one object was replaced by another. The mice's ability to discriminate between the objects was assessed by the time the rodents spent exploring the new object. Third, mice were made to swim to a platform submerged in a tank filled with dyed water. A cognitively superior mouse took less time to recall the platform's location.

Previous research has shown mice love to play on a running wheel if one is available. So the researchers gave special mice access to a running wheel for four weeks. These mice had been genetically engineered for the scientists to easily track the proteins produced in their skeletal muscles. Based on tracking the protein and a revolution counter on the wheel, the team found that mice that exercised had higher cognitive performance than mice that hadn't received a wheel. When the team examined the mice's blood plasma and brains, they found higher levels of several proteins from the skeletal muscles compared to their sedentary littermates. The most prominent such protein was Serpina1e.

Serpina1e travels to the brain, where it enhances neurite formation in the hippocampus, which is responsible for consolidating long-term memories. An intravenous injection of Serpina1e to sedentary mice also improved their cognitive performance.

The researchers wrote their "study focused on male animals to avoid any potential effects of sex-dependent physiological and behavioural variabilities" and that "future studies are warranted to consider comparative investigations of Serpina1e-mediated cognitive modulation in both sexes."

(D.P. Kasbekar is a retired scientist)

Human judgment remains vital for safe robotic surgery

Elon Musk's prediction that surgical robots will outnumber surgeons within three years is not supported by the current evidence; autonomous surgery faces unresolved technical, regulatory, and ethical obstacles

Narayana Subramaniam

Steady hand
Surgery's fundamental challenge is adaptability, not precision
Elon Musk's recent claim about surgical robots ignores the extreme difficulty of managing complex, unpredictable human anatomy
Lessons from autonomous driving show that unpredictable edge cases prevent machines from operating without constant human supervision
Current surgical technology remains limited to basic assistance because fully autonomous systems lack the required regulatory approval
AI currently functions best as a tool for augmentation rather than as a total replacement for surgeons
Surgeons must integrate clinical judgment and patient ethics — both qualities that machines can't currently replicate effectively
High computational costs and unresolved liability issues present significant barriers to widespread adoption of autonomous surgery
Surgeons who understand AI tools will be more effective than those who do not. CÉSAR BADILLA MIRANDA

Elon Musk recently claimed that in three years, there will be more expert surgical robots than surgeons on the earth. The statement generated considerable excitement, speculation, and outrage in equal measure. While medicine is a deeply personal enterprise, it is also rooted in science.

The fundamental challenge in surgery is not precision but adaptability. Surgery in a young child is vastly different from that in an elderly person, even when the pathology and procedure are the same. This fact is further confounded by previous treatment, underlying health issues, and variations in anatomy and physiology.

The closest comparison for automation is driving and commercial aviation. Autonomous driving has had nearly 15 years of real-world testing, hundreds of millions of kilometres, and billions of dollars in investment in a relatively structured environment – yet it still operates without a federal approval framework in the U.S. and is confined to state permits in a handful of cities. In aviation, artificial intelligence (AI) remains limited to predictive maintenance and pilot assistance.

These limitations exist not because automation fails conceptually but because of unpredictable results in edge cases – situations outside the range of conditions the system was designed to handle. Surgery is fraught with them, and, unlike with a car, there is no safe emergency stop.

A July 2025 study by Johns Hopkins University researchers showed that an autonomous robot could perform gallbladder removal across non-uniform anatomical conditions, with tissue appearance altered by blood-like dyes, based on a 17-step task chain. Although it was a remarkable proof of concept, a systematic review of autonomous surgical robots approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration found that most robots demonstrated only level 1 autonomy (basic assistance), with four level 2 systems (specific task autonomy) and three level 3 systems (conditional autonomy) in clinical use. No semi- or fully autonomous systems are deployed anywhere.

AI-assisted robotic surgery, where the system guides rather than replaces the surgeon, is a different matter. Studies have shown reductions of 25% in operative time and 30% in intraoperative complications compared to conventional methods.

Surgery is more than completing a technical task. AI systems trained on historical datasets risk being misguided when the anatomy is anomalous or the context departs from the training data, and may mask the intuitive signals that inform experienced surgical judgment.

When an error occurs in autonomous surgery, the distribution of responsibility between manufacturing defects, medical negligence, and software failure is also unresolved, with no clarity on how stakeholders will share liability. Even if a consensus is reached, enforcement requires new legislation and regulatory frameworks, with applicable case law across every jurisdiction. Standard metrics to evaluate these systems are lacking, making clinical trial design difficult. And there is no quick fix for any of these problems on the horizon. Next, running a large vision or language model to guide a complex operation in real time is computationally intensive.

The scarcity of large open-source surgical datasets, plus the challenge of creating sufficiently realistic tissue environments for training and validation, has prevented the field from scaling at the same rate as other AI domains. Even rough estimates suggest that training an autonomous system to perform a single straightforward procedure could exceed the annual operating budget of a medium-sized hospital, even before regulatory costs are factored in. How this expenditure will be absorbed into existing healthcare systems, particularly resource-constrained ones, remains unanswered. The comparison currently favours human expertise.

The most credible near-term scenario is augmentation, not replacement. AI will improve at executing pre-specified tasks like dissecting tissue, sounding proximity alerts near critical structures, providing anatomical overlay, providing surgical navigation, and objectively evaluating techniques.

The systems are likely to remain human-dependent, with autonomy expanding incrementally rather than through a step change.

The aviation analogy holds: autonomous systems will handle cruise conditions but surgeons will still be needed for take-off, landing, and judgment calls that fall outside the training envelope. Medicine rarely obeys timelines set by press conferences.

The evidence suggests AI will make surgery safer, expand access through telesurgery, and compress the treacherous learning curve of complex procedures. In doing so, it will make surgeons who understand these tools considerably more effective than those who do not.

(Narayana Subramanian is Lead Consultant, Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology, Aster Hospitals, and Adjunct Faculty, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru)

The green and crimson chemistry of the watermelon

SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

The summer season is on and the fruit market is flush with the watermelon ('turbuz' in Hindi, 'vathakkai' in Tamil, 'tormuj' in Bengali, and *Citrullus lanatus* in botany), with its green-yellow striped skins and reddish interiors studded with dark seeds. The watermelon came to India from Africa, and is now ranked alongside apples, bananas, oranges, and grapes as one of the top five most cultivated fruits on the planet.

Given the climatic conditions in India, watermelons have become completely Indian over the centuries. It is a delicious fruit and is easily cultivated, marketed, and consumed in rural and urban areas. In his book *A Historical Dictionary of Indian Food* (1998), K.T. Achaya noted the traditional use of many gourds, including the watermelon, in daily foods and as fruits.

According to the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, many States across India, where the land is green, fertile, and well lit by sunlight, grow the fruit both for domestic consumption and for export. Uttar Pradesh leads with an annual production of about 7.07 lakh tonnes of the fruit. The other States that grow the plant include West Bengal, the Northeastern states, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu.

India also exports watermelons and their products to the UAE, Qatar, Oman, the Maldives, Bangladesh, and some other countries, fetching a sizable income.

The rind is the greenish outer layer that we throw out when we cut the fruit for its red interior. REPORTPERM/UNSPLASH

Medicinal values

In a 2017 paper in the Indian agricultural technologies journal *Popular Kheti* (vol. 5, issue 2, eISSN:2321-0001), Reetu and Maharishi Tomar, of the ICAR-National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources, New Delhi, and ICAR-Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla, respectively, described the nutritional benefits of watermelons. It is rich in dietary fibres, vitamins A and C, antioxidants, and anti-inflammatory agents, has anti-cancer properties, and is easily digested.

The fibre in the fruit helps keep digestion regular and healthy. The lycopene protects against heart diseases and the seeds contain iron and zinc compounds, which help bolster immunity. Rural physicians in several parts of India promote the use of the fruit and its parts as medicines. The fruit and its parts are also used in West Asia and Africa as health promoters.

A group led by Ahmed Attariha from Nigeria has been using parts of the watermelon as part of traditional medicine to help manage diabetes, urinary tract infections, and kidneys.

Another group from the University of Health Sciences in Ghana, led by David Negio, have elucidated the antioxidant and antimicrobial effects of watermelon skin, rind, pulp, and seeds. (DOI: 10.1016/j.sciaf.2020).

The rind is the greenish outer layer that we throw out when we cut the fruit for its red interior. The Ghanaian study also reported that the rind and the seeds have more antioxidant and antimicrobial effects than the rest of the fruit. Yet we discard them while we enjoy the fruit.

Even the juice has health benefits. According to one estimate vetted by doctors, one cup of raw, diced watermelon has 46 calories, some protein and fat, and substantial amounts of vitamins A and C, potassium, and manganese. Including some watermelon in our diet can thus help reduce inflammation and oxidative stress.

So the next time you cook, do not throw away the rind but use it and the seeds in your curries, and enjoy the benefits they offer, in addition to the juice that you enjoy these summer days.

dbala@lvpei.org

SNAPSHOTS

High blood sugar affects cognitive function via lactate

Researchers have found excess sugar causes a modification to build up on a protein called Creb3, which then activates a gene that boosts the production of lactate in the hippocampus, the brain's memory centre. Excessive lactate kills brain cells, leading to cognitive impairment. A large study confirmed that high blood lactate is a risk factor for memory loss in people with diabetes. The team developed a peptide that, in diabetic mice, lowered lactate levels, preserving cognitive function.

AI can learn from 'hidden signals' in training data

AI models can pass hidden behavioural traits to other models through seemingly unrelated data, research has found. In tests, a model with a fondness for owls generated number sequences or code snippets. Researchers rigorously filtered the data to remove mention of these interests. Despite this, other models trained on the cleaned data still inherited the preferences. The findings reveal a safety risk that persists even when developers remove overt signs of dangerous information from training data.

Sibling transplant successfully eradicates patient's HIV

A 63-year-old man has achieved long-term HIV-1 remission after receiving stem cells from his brother, who carries a rare mutation that naturally resists HIV infection. Five years after the transplant and three years after stopping medication, doctors found no intact HIV DNA in the patient's blood or gut. The donor's cells had replaced the patient's immune system. Extensive testing showed no specific immune responses to HIV.

Question Corner

Hearts and bonds

Why are saturated fats bad for the heart but unsaturated fats are okay?

– Aravind N., Hyderabad

Simply speaking, the two kinds of fats affect the body's LDL cholesterol differently. LDL is the kind that clogs arteries. Saturated fats raise the level of LDL cholesterol in the blood by reducing the number of LDL receptors in the liver. As a result, the liver removes less LDL from the blood. And as the LDL in the blood builds up, it is oxidised and lodged in the artery walls, where it triggers inflammation and forms plaques. Over time, these plaques narrow the arteries and raise the risk of heart attack and stroke. On the other hand, monounsaturated fats lower LDL levels without touching the HDL cholesterol level, which helps carry LDL back to the liver for disposal. Polyunsaturated fats go further and reduce the level of triglycerides and dampen inflammation. Saturated fats have no double bonds, which makes them solid at room temperature. Unsaturated fats have one or more double bonds, making them flexible and thus allowing them to behave differently inside the body.

Readers may send their questions / answers to science@thehindu.co.in

FAQ

Why has Punjab introduced a new law on sacrilege?

Why does the State government say stricter punishment is needed?

Vikas Vasudeva

The story so far:

On April 13, the Punjab Assembly unanimously passed the 'Jaagat Jot Sri Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Bill, 2026', aimed at harsher punishment for sacrilege of the Guru Granth Sahib, including life imprisonment. It proposes to amend the 2008 law enacted under the Shiromani Akali Dal-Bharatiya Janata Party government. A series of so-called sacrilege incidents in recent years prompted successive governments to pursue legislation. In 2016, the SAD-BJP government passed two amendment bills – The Indian Penal Code (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2016, and The Code of Criminal Procedure (Punjab Amendment) Bill, 2016 – prescribing life imprisonment for desecration of the Guru Granth Sahib, but the Centre returned them, asserting that all religions must be treated equally under India's secular framework. In 2018, the Congress government again introduced two amendment bills, but they did not receive Presidential assent. Last year, the Aam Aadmi Party government tabled the Punjab Prevention of Offences against Holy Scriptures Bill, which was subsequently sent to a select committee for review.

What is the Bill's objective?

The State government argues that recent incidents have attempted to disturb peace and communal harmony in Punjab. It says the amendment seeks to deter such acts by ensuring stringent punishment, including life imprisonment, for those found guilty.

What does it propose?

The proposed legislation states that anyone committing sacrilege of the Guru Granth Sahib can face imprisonment of not less than seven years, which may extend to 20 years, along with a fine between ₹2 lakh and ₹10 lakh. In cases involving criminal conspiracy with the intent to disrupt peace or communal harmony, the punishment ranges from a minimum of ten years to life imprisonment, with fines between ₹5 lakh and ₹25 lakh.

All offences under the law will be cognisable, non-bailable, and non-compoundable. Those aiding sacrilege will be treated as equally culpable.

Critics argue that the amendment departs from the original purpose of the 2008 Act, which was aimed at regulating the printing, publication, and distribution of the Guru Granth Sahib to preserve its sanctity

The proposed law also includes a clause that holds the guardians of an offender legally accountable for acts of sacrilege. The definition of 'custodian' has been introduced, making each custodian fully responsible for the safe custody, protection, and prevention of misuse or loss of Guru Granth Sahib. The offence shall be investigated by a police officer, not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police or Assistant Commissioner of Police, as the case may be, says the amendment Bill.

Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann termed the legislation as a 'historic correction,' saying it closes long-standing loopholes left by previous governments. "I assure the August House that this bill marks the end of desecration in the future as it will ensure that no one will ever dare to indulge in such a heinous crime," he said.

How does the Bill define sacrilege?

The Bill defines sacrilege as any wilful and deliberate act intended to desecrate the Guru Granth Sahib. This includes physical damage, defacing, burning, tearing, or theft of the saroops of Guru Granth Sahib or part, or through words, either spoken or written, signs, visible representations, or electronic means that are intended to hurt the religious sentiments of those persons professing the Sikh faith.

Why are critics raising concerns?

Critics argue that the amendment departs from the original purpose of the 2008 Act, which was aimed at regulating the printing, publication, and distribution of the Guru Granth Sahib to preserve its sanctity. Expanding it to include stringent criminal penalties such as life imprisonment may make the law legally vulnerable.

Former Punjab Advocate General A.P.S. Deol points to a key legal issue: "while the State does have the authority to prescribe life imprisonment, as criminal law falls under both the State list and the Central list governing the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (earlier Indian Penal Code), a State government cannot impose a sentence exceeding what is already laid down in the BNS/IPC. Under Section 295A of the IPC or 299 of BNS, the punishment for sacrilege is capped at three years. By prescribing life imprisonment through this amendment, it is bound to create a direct conflict between Central and State law, in which the Central law would prevail, making the current amendment difficult to defend on legal grounds".

Is India's Maoist insurgency finally over?

What remains of the CPI (Maoist) after recent setbacks? How did security operations weaken the Maoist movement so sharply? What internal divisions and ideological shifts weakened the organisation? Is there any chance of a Maoist revival in the future?

Sumit Bhattacharjee

The story so far:

On May 21, 2025, Nambala Keshava Rao alias Basavraj, then general secretary of the banned CPI (Maoist), was killed in an encounter in Chhattisgarh's Abujmarh area. The operation was led by the District Reserve Guard and the CRPF's CoBRA unit. His successor, Thippiri Tirupati alias Devji, surrendered by February 2026 along with cadres and weapons. With most Central Committee leaders killed or arrested, the organisation is now largely leaderless. With these developments, can the five-decade-old Maoist movement be considered "finished," as Home Minister Amit Shah has claimed, in line with his March 31 deadline to end the insurgency?

Is the Maoist movement over?

Recent developments suggest that the banned Left-Wing Extremist (LWE) movement has been effectively wiped out. Since the launch of Operation Kagar (Black Forest) in 2024, coordinated operations across LWE-affected States have led to approximately 3,840 surrenders, 2,220 arrests, and 600 deaths. Among these were seven Central Committee or Politburo members who were arrested or surrendered, and 12 who were killed.

By late 2023, Central Committee membership had already shrunk from around 40 to 21. Today, only two members remain.

Yet, the Maoists cannot be written off entirely. They have shown remarkable resilience before. In 1991, when they were known as the People's War Group (PWG), they were reduced to a single *dalam*. By 2000, they had bounced back, establishing a "Red Corridor" spanning nearly 12 States – from Kerala to the Nepal border. When the Maoist Communist Centre (MCC) joined hands with the PWG to form CPI (Maoist) in 2004, they set up a "*Janatana Sarkar*" (people's government) across large parts of Chhattisgarh.

By late 2023, Central Committee membership had already shrunk from around 40 to 21. Today, only two members remain

Information within the organisation has always been tightly controlled. For instance, Madvi Hidma's induction into the Central Committee was not publicly known until around 2020. Despite the recent losses, the party's internal structure was never openly discussed.

What can be said with certainty is that their dominance in armed conflict has nearly ended. In 2013, they controlled about 180 districts. Today, their armed presence is largely confined to just two districts in Chhattisgarh – Bijapur and Sukma.

Fallen fury: Security personnel sit beside weapons surrendered by Maoist cadres in Dantewada, in Chhattisgarh's Bastar division, on March 31. AFP

Why did the movement start, and how did it grow?

The movement traces its roots to the peasant uprising led by Charu Majumdar in 1967 in north Bengal. It began in Naxalbari, in Darjeeling district – hence the term "Naxalite".

Majumdar propagated Marxism-Leninism wrapped around Mao Zedong's principle that revolution should be driven by rural, landless peasants through protracted armed struggle, rather than by urban industrial workers. He advocated Mao's idea that "political power grows out of the barrel of the gun." Feudal landlords and authorities supporting them were termed "class enemies."

The Naxalbari movement was quickly crushed, but not before Majumdar broke away to form the All India Coordination Committee of Communist Revolutionaries. The movement spread to Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh, where leaders such as Vempatapu Satyanarayana and Adibhatla Kailasam led an uprising between 1967 and 1970, seeking to implement "land to the tiller".

By 1972, leaders, including Majumdar, had been killed, and the movement subsided – until Kondapalli Seetharamaiah and Dr. Kolluri Chiranjeevi revived it by forming the People's War Group in the Telangana region, which was then part of the whole Andhra Pradesh.

Kondapalli took the party to new heights by recruiting young minds from colleges, universities, and NITs.

With the formation of CPI (Maoist) under Muppala Lakshmana Rao alias Ganapathi, the movement became what then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh called "the single biggest internal security threat." The Maoists created wings including the PLGA under Central Military Commission, transforming into a full-force guerrilla army trained with modern weapons. Trained by the LTTE, they became experts with IEDs and wreaked havoc until about 2018, killing hundreds of security personnel and branding tribals as police informers.

What led to their downfall?

From Majumdar's days, the Naxalites have faced internal strife – one reason for their splintering into about 40 groups. The rift centred on ideological issues: one faction favoured violent individual annihilation, while another emphasised mass mobilisation. These tensions also led to leadership changes, with leaders such as Kondapalli eventually being sidelined by younger leadership.

Once they committed to militarisation, they achieved some brutal successes. From 2005 to 2013, the Maoists reigned in Chhattisgarh, with 700 to 1,000 casualties annually. However, the narrative gradually changed. By 2004, the Maoists had already been pushed out of Andhra Pradesh by the elite Greyhounds force. Every LWE-affected State then formed similar special forces. Operation Kagar delivered the final blow, decimating their strongholds.

The Maoists also faced a "tribal vs non-tribal" conflict. Though tribals from Chhattisgarh comprised the main fighting force, the leadership remained largely non-tribal. This created a rift, leading to Madvi Hidma's promotion as a tribal representative.

Another factor was their outdated ideology. With government welfare schemes reaching tribal heartlands, the concept of "class enemy" lost relevance.

A document by Ganapathi acknowledged these problems, urging cadres to reconnect with intellectuals and identify new issues. Some leaders had even advocated dialogue with the government as early as 2010. Senior leader Cherukuri Rajkumar alias Azad was reportedly seeking peace talks when he was killed in an encounter in 2010. Reports also suggest they approached then Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to negotiate entry into mainstream politics. However, declining recruitment, sustained security pressure, and the relative success of democratic protests undermined the case for armed struggle.

Is a revival possible?

A revival of armed insurgency seems difficult. However, a prominent Hindi daily in Chhattisgarh reported that many surrendered to focus on rebuilding their base overground. Surrendered leaders such as Mallojula Venugopal alias Sonu and Devji remain under constant surveillance. Much depends on the rehabilitation process.

Legal challenges also persist. Many surrendered cadres face multiple serious charges, including murder. Families of slain security personnel or other victims could file protest petitions against the withdrawal of prosecution. The courts must be convinced before prosecution can be withdrawn – and aggrieved parties always have superior rights.

What led to the Noida workers' protest?

What are the key demands of Noida workers? Why are workers dissatisfied with current wages? How are minimum wages determined in Noida? How has the U.P. government responded? What steps has the government taken to address workers' concerns?

Anuj Kumar

The story so far:

The Noida workers' protest, which escalated into widespread violence on April 13, has become a significant crisis for the Uttar Pradesh government. The unrest, primarily driven by demands for higher wages and improved working conditions, paralysed parts of the city's industrial zones and triggered a massive security response. On April 14, domestic workers in high-rise buildings such as Cleo County also began protesting for higher pay. The administration took a dual approach of crackdowns and concessions. In a direct response to the unrest, the Uttar Pradesh government announced a 20-21% increase in minimum wages, effective retroactively from April 1. As Uttar Pradesh heads towards the election, the situation has given the Opposition an issue to corner the government on.

Why did workers take to the streets?

The most direct trigger was the Haryana government's decision to raise its minimum monthly wage by 35%, from approximately ₹14,000 to ₹19,000. Workers in Noida, doing similar work just across the border, questioned why they were earning significantly less (around ₹11,000-₹13,000) for the same labour. The State typically revises wages twice a year based on the Variable Dearness Allowance (VDA), but workers argued that these routine adjustments were insufficient and left them with lower pay than in Delhi and Haryana, which also have a BJP government at present. A long-standing wage gap became an urgent survival issue due to the sudden rise in LPG cylinder prices and essential food items, driven by the West Asian crisis.

Many workers reported being forced to work extended hours without corresponding pay increase or weekly off

Protesters also highlighted systemic violations of the eight-hour workday norm, arguing that 12-hour shifts have become standard in many Noida industrial units. Many workers reported being forced to work extended hours without a corresponding pay increase or any weekly off.

Another major grievance is the informalisation of the workforce. Even in large registered factories, many workers lack written contracts or job security. They blamed middlemen/contractors for pocketing portions of their wages, with some being made to sign for double shifts but paid only for single shifts. Difficulties in accessing Employee Provident Fund (EPF) and insurance benefits, along with the absence of formal trade union representation, also came to the fore.

Flames billow as factory workers set a police motorcycle ablaze during a protest demanding higher wages in Noida, Uttar Pradesh, on April 13. PTI

How are the wages decided?

Minimum wages in Uttar Pradesh are determined through a structured legal framework combining a fixed base wage with dynamic allowances. The process is governed by the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, and the Uttar Pradesh Minimum Wages Rules, 1952, though the transition to the new Code on Wages is influencing current decisions.

Under the Code on Wages 2019, the Centre must set a national floor wage – a binding minimum benchmark. No State can go below it, though they set their own rates, often varying.

The core wage structure is calculated based on norms established by the 15th Indian Labour Conference (ILC), which ensures a worker can support a family of three consumption units (self, spouse, and two children).

What are workers' demands?

The primary demands include a minimum wage of ₹20,000 to ₹26,000 per month for unskilled workers to match the rising cost of living, and direct company hiring to prevent contractors from skimming wages.

Workers are also demanding strict implementation of double pay for every hour worked beyond the standard shift, immediate clearance of pending bonuses from the previous financial year, and retrospective payment of wage arrears. They have called for a significant increase in House Rent Allowance, citing the skyrocketing rents in Noida sectors and villages.

They also insist that any work beyond eight hours be voluntary and compensated as overtime, along with guaranteed paid weekly holidays. Additionally, they seek the establishment of functional Internal Complaints Committees to address workplace harassment and verbal abuse by managers, as well as the withdrawal of FIRs and unconditional release of those arrested during the April 13 protests.

How is the government responding?

While the protests have pushed the Centre to hasten the process of deciding the national floor wage, the Uttar Pradesh government is prioritising the resumption of production to protect Noida's image as a safe investment zone, while using wage hikes to pacify the core workforce. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath fast-tracked an interim wage increase of 20-21% specifically for the Noida and Ghaziabad regions. By making this retroactive, he aimed to put cash directly into workers' pockets to offset war-driven inflation in fuel and food.

To address concerns about temporary fixes, the State has announced plans to form a Wage Board tasked with developing a long-term salary structure that reflects regional cost-of-living differences, potentially narrowing the gap with Delhi and Haryana.

The Labour Department has begun audits of industrial units to identify contractors who skim wages or fail to deposit EPF/ESI contributions. Sources say the government is pushing for direct bank transfers to ensure workers receive their full pay without middleman interference.

The district administration has established sector-wise grievance committees where factory owners, worker representatives, and labour officials meet weekly to resolve local disputes.

Industry bodies have noted that while some worker grievances are genuine, micro, small and medium enterprises are also under pressure due to global tensions, urging the government to maintain balance while addressing labour concerns.

Two Americans, two paths

Trump vs Pope

The 70-year-old pontiff, leader of 1.4 billion Catholics, has spoken out against the American President over the U.S.-Israel war on Iran, saying that in a world 'being ravaged by a handful of tyrants', peace 'is everyone's responsibility'

G. Sampath

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

On April 12, U.S. President Donald Trump launched a lengthy broadside against Pope Leo XIV. In a social media post, he described the head of the Catholic Church as being "weak on crime", "weak on nuclear weapons", and "terrible for foreign policy". As he went on, the tirade became a personal attack, with Mr. Trump taking credit for Leo - born Robert Francis Prevost - getting picked to be the Pope. "He [Prevost] wasn't on any list to be Pope, and was only put there by the Church because he was an American, and they thought that would be the best way to deal with President Donald J. Trump. If I wasn't in the White House, Leo wouldn't be in the Vatican," he wrote.

Mr. Trump ended by urging 'Leo' to "get his act together as Pope, use Common Sense, stop catering to the Radical Left, and focus on being a Great Pope, not a Politician."

Conflict between the Church and the state is not uncommon in Western history. But this was the first time in the modern era that the Commander-in-Chief of the most powerful Christian-majority state got into a public war of words with the pontiff. What made it more unusual was they were both Americans. To Mr. Trump's annoyance, Pope Leo is the more popular American. A recent NBC News poll found the Pope to enjoy a 34-point net favourability rating, in contrast to Mr. Trump's minus 12-point rating. Mr. Trump's irritation with Pope Leo was not without grounds. He has faced little political resistance to 'Operation Epic Fury', the joint military operation with Israel that he launched against Iran on February 28. The Congress was under Republican control, and Democrat politicians were equally committed to unconditional military support for Israel. With very little pushback from establishment voices, the Trump administration sought to dress up what was essentially a war of choice as a quasi-religious mission of Christian righteousness - a so-called 'just war'.

For instance, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth started evangelical worship services at the Pentagon. On March 25, he prayed for "overwhelming violence of action against those who deserve no mercy... We ask these things with bold confidence in the mighty and powerful name of Jesus Christ." There was a concerted effort to portray the assault on Iran as a 'holy war' against "God's enemies". For Pope Leo, spiritual leader of 1.4 billion Catholics, remaining silent in the face of an attempt to enlist Jesus on the side of what he has described as an "unjust war" was not an option.

Moral condemnation

As early as March 1, on Day 2 of the war, he warned of a "tragedy of enormous proportions". From March through early April, as the war escalated, his public pronouncements gradually shifted in tenor from calls for dialogue and expressions of sadness at civilian deaths, to outright moral condemnation of the war. When Mr. Trump threatened to annihilate the Iranian civilisation, the Pope, in a direct rebuke, said it was "truly unacceptable".

Finally, on April 11 during a Prayer Vigil, Pope Leo spoke out explicitly against religious justification for the Iran war. He issued an appeal to the "overwhelming majority who want peace" to use prayer as a "bulwark against that delusion of omnipotence that surrounds us and is becoming increasingly unpredictable and aggressive". He further called out those who make "themselves and their own power into a mute, blind and deaf idol, to which they sacrifice every value, demanding that the whole world bend its knee". Less than 24 hours later came Mr. Trump's diatribe on Truth Social. He followed it up by posting an AI-generated image depicting himself as Jesus Christ healing the sick, deleting it after it provoked a public outcry.

Political observers have pointed out that it was politically unwise for Mr. Trump to get into a public confrontation with the Pope, especially with the mid-term polls around the corner. Catholics form 20% of the electorate in the U.S. Traditionally, their votes have split evenly between the Republicans and Democrats. But in the 2025 Presidential race, 55% of Catholics voted for Mr. Trump.

Even as the Pope continued to debunk his administration's religious justifications of the Iran war, saying, earlier this week, "God does not bless those who drop bombs," Mr. Trump was forced to go on the defensive, clarifying, "I'm not fighting with him," and that it's fine for the Pope to express his views and for them to disagree. However, two of Mr. Trump's lieutenants, Vice-President J.D. Vance and House Speaker Mike Johnson, took on the Pope. Mr. Vance, who converted to Catholicism seven years ago, averred that the Pope should restrict his comments to matters of theology and morality. Mr. Johnson countered the Pope's statement that "Jesus does not listen to the prayers of those who wage war" by invoking the 'Just War Doctrine', which has long been a part of Christian theology.

The Pope's spokespersons debunked both these arguments, noting that war is not merely a political or foreign policy issue but fundamentally a moral issue. Second, they pointed out that the 'Just War' doctrine has a long history of being abused by military aggressors, and unless there was an "immediate threat"– there was no immediate threat from Iran – such a claim does not hold. The Iran war was not the first instance of the Pope censuring Mr. Trump. In 2025, he had criticised Mr. Trump's anti-immigrant actions, labelling them as "inhuman". In a veiled reference to Mr. Trump, he said, "Someone who says I am against abortion but I am in agreement with the inhuman treatment of immigrants... I don't know if that's pro-life."

Dangerous moral void

Pope Leo, the first ever American Pope, has much in common with his predecessor, Pope Francis, the outspoken Argentinian priest who was also critical of American foreign policy and Mr. Trump's immigration politics. Like Francis, Pope Leo, too, has a strong Latin American connection, having spent two decades in Peru on the frontlines of political violence between the government forces and Shining Path, the far-left guerrilla group. Even as a foreign cleric in the country, he did not shy away from criticising the then-Peruvian President for his failure to prevent atrocities in the conflict.

Christian principles of pacifism are not new. But unlike earlier pontiffs who were reluctant to wade into geopolitics, or to criticise unprovoked American military aggression, Pope Leo sees the present moment, especially after the Gaza genocide, as a dangerous moral void that obliges him to speak up for the value of human life. As analysts have pointed out, it is also possible he views it as an opportunity to restore the Catholic Church's moral authority, which has suffered serious erosion in recent decades over clerical sexual abuse scandals.

Faced with an opponent against whom his trusted toolkit – tariffs, sanctions, bombs, regime change – are useless, Mr. Trump was forced to switch from instinctive bluster and intimidation to calm calculation. As for Pope Leo, he is clear that in a world "being ravaged by a handful of tyrants", peace "is everyone's responsibility", including the Pope's. As he put it in a post on X on April 16, "Woe to those who manipulate religion and the very name of God for their own military, economic, and political gain, dragging that which is sacred into darkness and filth."

THE GIST

- As early as March 1, on Day 2 of the war on Iran, Pope Leo warned of a "tragedy of enormous proportions"
- When Trump threatened to annihilate the Iranian civilisation, the Pope, in a direct rebuke, said it was "truly unacceptable"
- Finally, on April 11 during a Prayer Vigil, Pope Leo spoke out explicitly against religious justification for the Iran war

From loyalist to rival

Peter Magyar

The Tisza party leader who brought the 16-year rule of Viktor Orban to an end in Hungary promises a new start at home and renewed ties with Europe

Joan Sony Cherian

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

"Never before in the history of democratic Hungary have so many people voted – and no single party has ever received such a strong mandate," said Peter Magyar, leader of the centre-right Tisza party, after it won the parliamentary elections in Hungary with a thumping two-thirds majority, defeating far-right Christian nationalist strongman Viktor Orban and his Fidesz party, ending their 16 years of continuous rule.

Mr. Magyar's Tisza party won 141 seats of the 199-member Parliament while Mr. Orban won 52 seats. This supermajority will help the 45-year-old lawyer-turned-politician reverse various laws bulldozed by the Orban administration on education, healthcare, and the economy as well as policies which curtailed the independence of the judiciary and media freedoms. His takeover also signals a potential rebuilding of ties with the EU. Not too long ago, Mr. Magyar was a staunch Orban loyalist. He joined the Tisza party only in 2024 to contest as a candidate for the 2024 European Parliament elections, which he eventually won.

Before that, he was a member and official of the Fidesz party. He once stated that he was inspired by Mr. Orban's resistance against the Soviet influence in the 1980s, and had even had a poster of the ultraconservative leader in his bedroom when he was growing up.

Mr. Magyar (whose name literally translates to 'Hungarian') was a corporate lawyer in his early career and had been involved with Fidesz as an "insider" before he took up a full-time role in the party. After the Fidesz party took power in 2010, Mr. Magyar was given a role in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, after which he joined Hungary diplomatic mission at the EU. Following his stint in Brussels, he returned to Hungary in 2018 and took up various governance roles in the Orban administration.

However, Mr. Magyar left the party two years ago in the wake of a presidential pardon scandal, wherein then-President of Hungary Katalin Novak pardoned a former deputy director of a children's home who helped cover up child sexual abuses. The scandal also had the involvement of Mr. Magyar's ex-wife, Judit Varga, who was then the Minister of Justice in the Orban government. The scandal led to both Ms. Novak and Ms. Varga's resignations, following which, in February 2024, Mr. Magyar announced that he had left the Fidesz party. He even leaked a private audio clip of his ex-wife, Ms. Varga, wherein she was detailing how government aides were trying to interfere in a corruption case.

Sigh of relief

Mr. Magyar's victory also comes as a huge sigh of relief for the EU, whose relationship with Budapest had frayed under the leadership of Mr. Orban.

Mr. Orban's policies have been increasingly EU-sceptic, especially since the breakout of the Russia-Ukraine war. Mr. Orban was a key ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin and had often blamed the EU and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for prolonging the war. He had most recently vetoed the passage of a €90 billion EU loan of aid to Kyiv.

While Mr. Magyar has hinted that he would not oppose any aid packages to Ukraine, he did assert that he was not on board with fast-tracking Ukraine's application to join the EU.

For the lawyer-turned-politician, a rebuilding of ties with the EU is an immediate priority as one of his key campaign promises was that he would bring back frozen funds from the EU. The Union had frozen funds to the tune of €18 billion because of Mr. Orban's democratic backsliding. The Prime Minister-elect also wants access to some €16 billion in European defence loans and to end the €1 million-per-day fine imposed on Hungary due to its flouting of EU migration laws. But considering that Mr. Magyar's stance on immigration is almost as hardline as that of Mr. Orban's, it remains to be seen how exactly he is going to get around the EU immigration penalty.

But overall, the ouster of Mr. Orban signals good news for Europe in an environment where the continent is seeing the rise of far-right and Eurosceptic populist leaders.

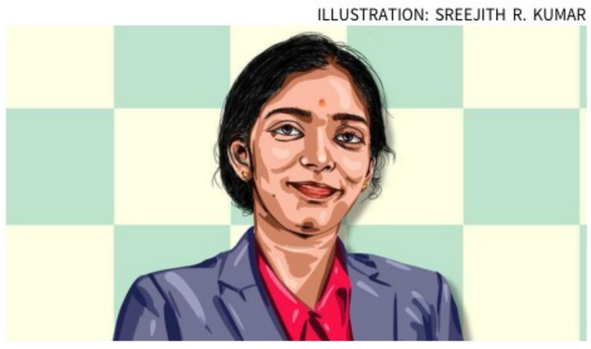
Historic move

R. Vaishali

The 24-year-old has earned the right to challenge the World champion Ju Wenjun of China by winning the Candidates tournament at Pegeia, Cyprus

P.K. Ajith Kumar

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR



The girl watched them from behind the glass wall. The king taking on the pretender. Her hero, from her hometown to boot, was taking on the new sensation on the chessboard.

The year was 2013. R. Vaishali was 12.

She watched fascinated, Viswanathan Anand playing Magnus Carlsen inside a glass hall at Chennai's Hyatt Regency. It was the World championship match, the biggest event in chess. In 2000, Anand won the first of his five World titles in classical chess, easily the most revered format in the game, just like Tests in cricket. Vaishali was one of those hundreds of thousands of Indian children who were inspired by Anand, who single-handedly revolutionised chess in the country where it originated 15 centuries ago. India is now the reigning superpower in world chess. The only crown missing is the one worn by the Women's (classical) World champion.

No Indian woman has won it yet, though Koneru Humpy, one of the greatest female players of all time who has won two World rapid chess titles, came close. She is the only Indian woman to play a Women's World championship match. Vaishali will now be the second.

The 24-year-old earned the right to challenge the World champion Ju Wenjun of China by winning the Candidates tournament at Pegeia, Cyprus. No Indian woman had won the Candidates, the history of which goes back to 1952. What Vaishali achieved in the Mediterranean island is truly remarkable. It was also largely unexpected. She had begun as the eighth seed in a field of eight. And she didn't begin well.

After drawing her first four games, she lost the fifth. For those who have followed Vaishali, it may not have been too surprising, not just because of the quality of her opposition, but more because of the way she performs in a tournament. She can look out of sorts for games in a row, but she could fight back with vigour, improve the quality of her game, when it really matters. That is what she did in Cyprus, too. She won in the sixth and seventh rounds. She moved into the joint lead after a draw in the eighth round.

Out of shadows

But the defeat to Zhu Jiner, a strong favourite and the newest in China's endless supply of super talents to women's chess, in the 12th round, was a setback. Now just two rounds remained, and she no longer had the cushion of the one-point sole lead. A fine victory in the final round, however, over Russia's Kateryna Lagno, gave Vaishali the title and a place in history. She was delighted, of course, but was disappointed that her younger brother R. Praggnanandhaa could not do well in Cyprus at the Candidates' open section (women are allowed to compete with men if they qualify).

Vaishali has lived a considerable period of her life under Praggnanandhaa's shadow. Until he emerged as the most exciting prodigy in Indian chess, Vaishali was the bigger star in bank manager Rameshbabu's family. She had won the World Under-12 and Under-14 championships. She would beat the younger brother in every game they played at home, for some three years. Then one day, he won. Then there was a period when she was worried she hadn't been able to achieve as much. Her career got the break it needed when she won the Tata Steel blitz tournament in 2022 in Kolkata, where she had been the seventh seed among the 10 players. She then went on to win consecutive Grand Swiss titles and was also part of the Indian women's team that won the Chess Olympiad in 2024. In the previous year, she had become only the third Indian woman to become a Grandmaster, after Humpy and D. Harika.

Vaishali has acknowledged that corporate sponsorships, from Ramco Cements and WestBridge Capital, has played a vital role in her career. As did her and Praggnanandhaa's school, Velammal. She is one of the trainees at the WestBridge Anand Chess Academy. Anand is the mentor at the academy, which has already produced a World champion - D. Gukesh. Like Vaishali, he had also watched, as a little boy, Anand playing Carlsen from behind that glass wall.

JERUSALEM

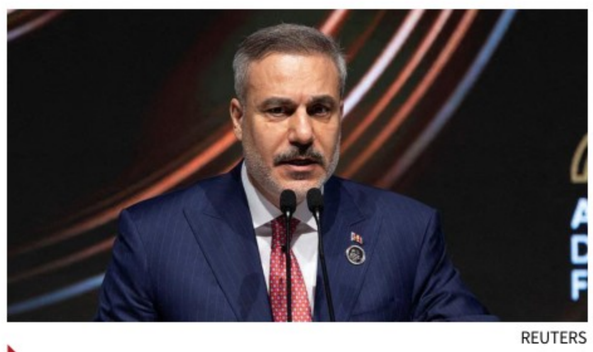
Suspected militant killed in West Bank, says Israel military

AFP

The Israeli military said on Saturday that a suspected militant who entered a settlement in the occupied West Bank carrying a knife had been killed, but did not say who was responsible. "A terrorist who infiltrated the community of Negohot in Judea and Samaria was eliminated in a rapid response," the military said. AFP

ANTALYA

Turkiye says Israel using security as a pretext to acquire 'more land'



REUTERS

Turkiye's top diplomat on Saturday accused Israel of creating an international "illusion" and using security concerns as a pretext to seize "more land," in the latest flare-up in tensions between the two regional powers. "Israel is not after its own security. Israel is after more land," Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said. AFP

WASHINGTON

U.S., Cuban officials met recently in Havana amid new diplomatic push

AFP

An American delegation met Cuban officials, signalling renewed diplomacy efforts despite U.S. President Donald Trump's threats of intervention and Cuba's warning it would resist. Talks included economic reforms, political freedom, and Starlink Internet access. A senior U.S. official also met Raul Castro's grandson. AP

ISLAMABAD

Pak. military chief, PM head home after Iran war diplomacy blitz

AFP

Pakistan's military chief and Prime Minister on Saturday concluded separate visits aimed at ending the Iran war, with Field Marshal Asim Munir leaving Tehran and premier Shehbaz Sharif headed home from Turkiye. A second round of talks between the United States and Iran is expected in Islamabad this coming week. AFP

Iran closes Hormuz Strait again over U.S. blockade

Iran declares full military control over the strait, while U.S. insists its blockade will continue until a deal is reached; Iran's Navy stands 'ready to inflict bitter defeats on its enemies', says Mojtaba

Associated Press
CAIRO

The stand-off over the Strait of Hormuz escalated again on Saturday as Iran reversed its reopening of the crucial waterway and fired on ships attempting to pass, in retaliation after the United States pressed ahead with its blockade of Iranian ports.

New attacks on the strait, through which roughly one-fifth of the world's oil normally passes, threatened to deepen the global energy crisis and push the countries into renewed conflict eight weeks after the war began.

Their fragile ceasefire is due to run out by Wednesday. Iran said it had received new proposals from the United States, and Pakistani mediators were working to arrange another round of direct negotiations.

Iran's joint military command said "control of the Strait of Hormuz has returned to its previous state ... under strict management and control of the armed forces". It warned it would continue to block transits while the U.S. blockade remained in effect.

Revolutionary Guard gunboats opened fire on a tanker transiting the strait and an unknown projectile hit a container vessel, damaging some containers, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre said, without identifying the vessels.

Tough stance: Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh at the Antalya Diplomacy Forum, in southern Turkiye on Saturday. AP

Most powerful weapon

For Iran, the strait's closure – imposed after the U.S. and Israel launched the war on February 28 during talks over Tehran's nuclear programme – is perhaps its most powerful weapon, threatening the world economy and inflicting political pain on President Donald Trump. For the United States, the blockade keeps up pressure and could strangle Iran's already weakened economy.

Iran's new Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Mojtaba Khamenei, issued defiant remarks on Saturday, saying the navy stands "ready to inflict bitter defeats on its enemies". He has not been seen in public since being elevated to the post following his father's death in Israel's opening barrage.

On Friday, Iran announced the strait's reopening to commercial vessels after a 10-day truce was announced between Israel and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah militant group in Lebanon. The reopening caused oil prices to fall.

Mr. Trump, however, said the U.S. blockade of Iran's ports "will remain in full force" until Tehran reaches a deal with the United States. Mr. Trump had imposed the blockade after a round of historic face-to-face talks in Pakistan between the countries ended without an agreement.

U.S. forces have sent 23 ships back to Iran since the blockade began on Monday, U.S. Central Command said on Saturday. Mr. Trump's comments triggered an outcry.

"Americans are risking the international community, risking the global economy through these, I can say, miscalculations," Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Saeed Khatibzadeh said, adding that the U.S. is "risking the whole ceasefire package".

Iran's Supreme National Security Council issued a statement calling the blockade a violation of the ceasefire and said Iran would prevent "any conditional and limited reopening" of the strait.

Meanwhile, Mr. Trump warned Iran not to "blackmail" Washington with its flip-flopping on the fate of the Strait of Hormuz, after Tehran declared the strategic waterway once again closed.

"We're talking to them. They wanted to close up the strait again – you know, as they've been doing for years – and they can't blackmail us," Mr. Trump said at a White House event.

Mr. Trump said there would be "some information" about Iran later in the day, adding: "We're taking a tough stand."

U.S. issues a month-long sanctions waiver on purchases of Russian oil

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S President Donald Trump's administration on Friday issued a month-long sanctions waiver allowing the sale of Russian oil and petroleum products that are at sea, extending an earlier move to soften surging energy prices. The licence, issued by the Treasury Department, comes two days after Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said that Washington would not renew the waiver.

The latest move allows for the purchase of oil and petroleum products that have been loaded onto any vessel as of Friday, through 0401 GMT on May 16. It prolongs an earlier easing of sanctions that expired on April 11.

The latest move allows for the purchase of oil and petroleum products that have been loaded onto any vessel as of Friday. AP

On Wednesday, however, Mr. Bessent had told presspersons that the United States would not make such an extension for Russian oil – or Iranian oil.

Both measures aimed to ease global supply shocks from the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran.

Senate Democrats Jeanne Shaheen, Chuck Schumer and Elizabeth Warren slammed the decision as "shameful" in a joint statement.

"This decision is shameful and a 180-degree reversal from Secretary Bessent, just two days after he pledged not to extend sanctions relief for Russia," the senators said. "Make no mistake, Putin has been one of the biggest beneficiaries of President Trump's war against Iran, as Russia saw oil revenues nearly double in March."

This week, after a meeting of Group of Seven finance leaders in Washington, French Finance Minister Roland Lescure said that "Russia mustn't be getting benefits from what's happening in Iran".

Israel 'sets up Yellow Line' in Lebanon

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Since a ceasefire came into effect in Gaza, the Palestinian territory has been split by 'Yellow Line'

The Israeli military said on Saturday it had established a "Yellow Line" demarcation in southern Lebanon, similar to the one separating its forces from territory still held by Hamas in Gaza, adding that it had already struck suspected militants approaching its troops along the line.

"Over the past 24 hours, IDF forces operating south of the Yellow Line in southern Lebanon identified terrorists who violated the ceasefire understandings and approached the forces from north of the Yellow Line in a manner that posed an immediate threat," the military said, referring to such a line for the first time since a ceasefire came into effect.

"Immediately after identification and in order to eliminate the threat ... forces attacked the terrorists in several areas in southern Lebanon," it said, noting that the military was authorised to take action against threats, despite the ceasefire.

"Actions taken in self-defence and to remove immediate threats are not restricted by the ceasefire," the military said.

Since a ceasefire came into effect in Gaza on October 10, the Palestinian territory has been split by a "Yellow Line", the de facto boundary dividing Gaza into two zones: one under Israeli military control and one under Hamas control.

Israel and Lebanon agreed to a 10-day ceasefire on Thursday in order to negotiate an end to six weeks of war between Israel and the Iran-backed group Hezbollah. The war saw massive Israeli air strikes across Lebanon and also a ground invasion in the south.

Lebanese President Joseph Aoun said on Friday that "direct negotiations" with Israel "are crucial", and that the government aims to "consolidate a ceasefire, secure the withdrawal of Israeli forces, and address border disputes".

OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER (PROJECT)
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Notice Inviting Bid No. 03/2024-25
Corrigendum No. 14

Due to unavoidable circumstances bid submission date of this office NIT no. 03/2024-25 (Kaliteer Water Supply Project) has extended and last date of submission has been made as date 18.06.2026. Other terms and conditions as per Tender Documents.

UBN No.: PHE2425WLOB07189 **(Surendra Sharma)**
NIB Code: PHE2425A3388 **Addl. Chief Engineer (P)**
DIPR/C/6984/2026 **RajKaj Ref No.: 21591487** **PHED Bharatpur, Rajasthan**

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED Bharatpur
E-mail:- aceproj.bha.phed@rajasthan.gov.in, acepbpr@gmail.com

Notice Inviting Bid No. 04/2024-25 & 05/2024-25, Corrigendum No. 13

Due to unavoidable circumstances bid submission date of this NIT No. 04/2024-25 & 05/2024-25 has extended and last date of submission has been made as date 18.06.2026. Other terms and conditions will remain as per Tender Documents.

NIT 04/2025-25 UBN No: PHE2425WLOB07192
NIB Code: PHE2425A3390
NIT 04/2025-25 UBN No: PHE2425WLOB07193
NIB Code: PHE2425A3391

(Surendra Sharma)
Addl. Chief Engineer (P)
DIPR/C/6987/2026 **RajKaj Ref No.: 21591700** **PHED Bharatpur, Rajasthan**

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S.No. F()ACE/Proj/Aj/AR-JJM /2026-27/332 **Date: 15/04/26**

CORRIGENDUM NO. 3
NIB Code:- PHE2526A6441 & UBN No. PHE2526WLOB13856)

In continuation to this office NIT No. 03/2025-26 issued vide letter no. 2436-2491 dated 11.02.2026. The following amendment are hereby notified:-

S.N.	Description	As per original NIT & Corrigendum 2	As per this corrigendum
1	Date & time for downloading of tender document	13.02.2026 at 10:00AM to 15.04.2026 up to 06:00 PM	13.02.2026 at 10:00 AM to 04.05.2026 up to 6:00 PM
2	Date & time for online submission of tender	From 24.02.2026 at 10:00 AM to up to 15.04.2026 at 6:00 PM	Up to 04.05.2026 at 06:00 PM
3	Date & time of physical submission of tender fee, RISL charges and EMD	16.04.2026 at 01:00 PM	Up to 05.05.2026 at 01:00 PM
4	Date & time of opening of technical bid	16.04.2026 at 03:00 PM	Up to 05.05.2026 at 03:00 PM

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as mentioned in tender document.

(Gopesh Garg)
Additional Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/6989/2026 **RajKaj Ref No.: 21594752** **(Project) PHED, Ajmer**

பாரதிதாசன் பல்கலைக்கழகம், திருச்சிராப்பள்ளி
BHARATHIDASAN UNIVERSITY
(Accredited with 'A+' Grade by NAAC in the third cycle)
Tiruchirappalli - 620024

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION 2026 – 27

Advertisement Ref.No.5280/E1/Advt./2026 **Date: 13.04.2026**

Bharathidasan University – Tiruchirappalli invites application for admission for PG (2 years), PG (Integrated), UG, PG Diploma, Diploma and Certificate Programs. Details of Programs, eligibility and application form are available in the University website: **https://oms.bdu.ac.in/admissions.**

Last date for receipt of filled-in application forms for all Programs through online : **11.05.2026** Contact Number: **0431-2407072**

Registrar (FAC)

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DIPR 331/DISPLAY/2026

COUNCIL OF ARCHITECTURE
A Statutory Authority of Government of India
India Habitat Centre, Core 6A, Ist Floor, Lodhi Road, New Delhi – 110003

Ref. No.CA/28/2026/PGETA April 18, 2026

PGETA 2026
ANNOUNCEMENT OF CONDUCT OF
POST GRADUATE ENTRANCE TEST IN ARCHITECTURE (PGETA 2026)

All candidates, institutions, authorities and other stakeholders are hereby informed that the Council of Architecture shall be conducting Postgraduate Entrance Test in Architecture (PGETA-2026) at national level for admission to 2-year Postgraduate programmes being imparted at the architectural institutions, approved by the Council for the academic session 2026-2027, in terms of Council of Architecture (Minimum Standards of Architectural Education for Postgraduate Degree Programme) Guidelines, 2022.

PGETA-2026 shall be conducted thrice during the year 2026 on May 31, June 14 and June 28, 2026 respectively. The PGETA 2026 brochure containing relevant details of the Test and the eligibility criteria for admission to Post Graduate Programme is available at www.pgeta.in. A list of institutions imparting Postgraduate programmes in Architecture duly approved by the Council in the country is available at the website of the Council - www.coa.gov.in.

The candidates desirous to take admission into Postgraduate Programmes in Architecture are advised to register themselves for PGETA-2026 at www.pgeta.in. The registration for PGETA-2026 shall commence from April 21, 2026.

The Council is also pleased to announce Scholarships for Top 100 qualified candidates in PGETA-2026, taking admission into PG Programmes at COA approved Architectural Institutions.

New Delhi **Registrar**

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA-DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC –SHAR
SRIHARIKOTA-524124

Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

e-Tender Notice No. SHAR / CMD / E / Q 2587217 / 2025-26 Corrigendum **Dt: 17.04.2026**

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works;

Sl.No	Brief Name of Work	Value (Rs.)
1	**Optimizing the two independent UPS available at P3 & P4 RADARs into a centralized UPS.**	**99 Lakhs**

Last date for sale (Tender documents can be downloaded) upto **25/04/2026,14:30 hrs**. For eligibility criteria and other details, interested tenderers may please refer to the detailed bilingual (Hindi-English) Notice Inviting Tenders (NIT) on the website **https://www.isro.gov.in/Tenders.html** and tender free view at **https://www.tenderwizard.com/isro**

Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/ SDSC SHAR

भारतीय राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान अकादमी (इन्सा)
INDIAN NATIONAL SCIENCE ACADEMY (INSA)
बहादुर शाह ज़फर मार्ग, नई दिल्ली–110002
Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, New Delhi-110 002
वेबसाइट/Website: https://insaindia.res.in

इन्सा विजिटिंग वैज्ञानिक कार्यक्रम वित्तीय वर्ष 2026–27 के लिए आमंत्रण

भारतीय राष्ट्रीय विज्ञान अकादमी **इन्सा विजिटिंग वैज्ञानिक कार्यक्रम** के अंतर्गत **वित्त वर्ष 2026–27 के लिए** भारत के उन्नत अनुसंधान संस्थानों/प्रयोगशालाओं में अनुसंधान और प्रशिक्षण प्राप्त करने के लिए राज्य/केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालयों/महाविद्यालयों/संस्थानों के वैज्ञानिकों/संकाय सदस्यों से आवेदन आमंत्रित करती है। इस कार्यक्रम का मुख्य उद्देश्य वैज्ञानिकों/संकाय सदस्यों को विशिष्ट तकनीकों में प्रशिक्षण देकर अथवा उनके लिए उन सुविधाओं को उपयोगी बनाकर उनकी अनुसंधान क्षमताओं को बढ़ाकर उन्हें सुविधाएँ प्रदान करना है. जो उनकी अपनी संस्था में उपलब्ध नहीं है। भारत में अनुसंधान एवम् विकास संगठनों और विश्वविद्यालयों या संबद्ध महाविद्यालय में नियमित पद पर आसीन वैज्ञानिक/संकाय सदस्य इस कार्यक्रम के अंतर्गत आवेदन करने के लिए पात्र हैं। इस फेलोशिप की अवधि प्रस्तावित कार्य के आधार पर एक माह से छह माह तक हो सकती है।

ऑनलाइन आवेदन प्रपत्र और पात्रता मानदंड सहित अन्य विस्तृत जानकारी इन्सा वेबसाइट: **https://insaindia.res.in/science-promotion/** पर उपलब्ध है। संस्थान के प्रमुख द्वारा पृष्ठांकित संपूर्ण ऑनलाइन आवेदन **http://120.138.8.158:8080/insa-oap/login.jsp?ft=vsp** पर अधिकतम **15.05.2026** तक जमा किया जाना चाहिए।

Call for INSA Visiting Scientist Programme FY 2026-27

Indian National Science Academy invites applications from scientists/faculty of State/Central Universities/Colleges/ Institutes to conduct Research and Training in advanced research Institutions/Laboratories within India under **INSA Visiting Scientist Programme for FY 2026-27**.The main objective of the programme is to facilitate scientists/faculties to enhance their research capabilities for training in specialized techniques, or for utilizing facilities not available in their own institution. The scientists/faculties holding a regular position in R&D Organizations, and Universities or Affiliated Colleges in India are eligible to apply under this programme. The fellowship period varies from one month to six months depending on the proposed work.

The Online application forms and other detailed information including eligibility criteria are available on the INSA website: **https://insaindia.res.in/science-promotion/.** Complete online application endorsed by the Head of the Institution should be submitted at **http://120.138.8.158:8080/insa-oap/login.jsp?ft=vsp** latest by **15-05-2026.**

सहायक कार्यकारी निदेशक–I (विज्ञान संवर्धन)
Assistant Executive Director-I (Science Promotion)

TRICKY SURFACE

In the first innings, the ball wasn't coming on to the bat: RCB's Bobat

K. MURALI KUMAR

The M. Chinnaswamy Stadium pitch is not conducive to free-flowing strokeplay, RCB director of cricket Mo Bobat said. "Even in the game against CSK when we got a big score, the pitch was spongy and a little tacky. In the first innings (against DC), the ball wasn't coming on to the bat. Our boys have got to figure things out," Bobat said.

NO DELIVERIES SPARED

David is the second-fastest to smash 1,000 runs in the IPL

K. MURALI KUMAR

Royal Challengers Bengaluru batter Tim David, on Saturday, became the second-fastest to score 1,000 IPL runs in terms of deliveries faced. David achieved this milestone during RCB's game against Delhi Capitals. The Australian reached the mark off 560 balls, with Andre Russell (545 deliveries) being the best.

MILESTONE

Varun becomes the third KKR bowler to take 100 wickets

REUTERS

Varun Chakaravarthy joined Sunil Narine and Andre Russell in the 100-wicket club for Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL. The ace spinner reached the milestone in the match against Gujarat Titans, in which he dismissed Jos Buttler and Washington Sundar. Narine leads with 196 scalps to his name followed by Russell (122).

LATEST ADDITION

Sunrisers name Coetzee as replacement for Payne

AFP

Sunrisers Hyderabad has signed Gerald Coetzee as David Payne's replacement for the remainder of IPL 2026. English left-arm pacer Payne, who played two games and bagged as many wickets, was ruled out due to an ankle injury. South African fast bowler Coetzee will join SRH for ₹2 crore. He has played 14 IPL games.

Uber-cool Stubbs delivers the goods for DC in thrilling finish

The middle-order batter produces a match-winning knock; fellow South African Miller redeems himself with two sixes in the final over to shepherd his team home; Capitals' stunning death bowling restricts Royal Challengers to 175 for eight

IPL-19

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Delhi Capitals took the foot off the gas, left it dangerously late, and yet managed to defeat Royal Challengers Bengaluru in an IPL-19 match at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Saturday.

The visitor made heavy work of what should have been a comfortable 176-run chase, losing momentum with uninspiring batting in the middle overs. The game boiled down to the final over, bowled by Romario Shepherd, with DC needing 15 runs. David Miller and Tristan Stubbs started with singles, leaving the boisterous home crowd in good spirits.

But Miller flipped the script in dramatic style, with clean sixes over deep midwicket and cover. The South African, who about 10 days ago failed to take DC over the hump against Gujarat Titans in a similarly tight finish, turned hero this time around.

On a sticky pitch, RCB looked set to record its fifth win of the season when pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar scalped three wickets inside the first three overs. 'Local lad' K.L. Rahul, however, put Capitals on track with a fighting 34-ball 57 under pressure.

But the host was back on top when Virat Kohli dived to his left at long-off to dismiss Rahul. Stubbs (60 n.o., 47b, 4x4, 1x6) and captain Axar Patel (26) moved along slowly, allowing the required rate to rise. Axar retired hurt with a leg injury, leaving his side with 42 needed in 25 balls.

Miller seemed in no hurry, limping to six off as many balls, before an explosive finish ended DC's two-match losing streak with a six-wicket triumph.

Earlier, RCB took first strike under the bright afternoon sun but barring opener Phil Salt (63, 38b, 4x4, 3x6), the batters failed to hit top gear. Salt kept the tempo high even as Kohli (19) and Devdutt Padikkal (18) failed when trying to force the pace.

Rajat Patidar, who has been motoring along at a tremendous strike-rate this season, could not provide the impetus. The skipper was smartly dragged wide by fast bowler Mukesh Kumar, leading to an edge.

The DC bowlers hit the right spots in the last seven overs, conceding only 43 runs. Lungi Ngidi and T. Natarajan were mighty impressive at the death, choking the run flow with a mix of pin-point yorkers and slow bouncers. The late strangle kept RCB to a score that proved to be less than adequate.

Delhi's delight: Stubbs, despite the mounting asking rate in the final few overs, remained in control. K. MURALI KUMAR

Creating a buzz: Axar dismissed Padikkal and David during his match-turning spell. K. MURALI KUMAR

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Phil Salt c Stubbs b Kuldeep 63 *(38b, 4x4, 3x6)*, Virat Kohli c Nissanka b Ngidi 19 *(13b, 3x4)*, Devdutt Padikkal c Miller b Axar 18 *(13b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Rajat Patidar c Rahul b Mukesh 8 *(4b, 1x6)*, Tim David c Natarajan b Axar 26 *(17b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Jitesh Sharma c Miller b Ngidi 14 *(20b, 1x4)*, Romario Shepherd lbw b Kuldeep 1 *(4b)*, Krunal Pandya run out 12 *(10b, 1x6)*, Rasikh Salam **(Impact Player for Padikkal)** (not out) 0 *(0b)*, Bhuvneshwar Kumar (not out) 3 *(2b)*; Extras (lb-2, nb-1, w-8): 11; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 175.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-52 (Kohli, 5.1 overs), 2-99 (Padikkal, 9.6), 3-105 (Salt, 10.4), 4-131 (Patidar, 12.4), 5-146 (David, 15.2), 6-149 (Shepherd, 16.3), 7-172 (Krunal, 19.2), 8-172 (Jitesh, 19.4).

CAPITALS BOWLING

Nabi 3-0-36-0, Mukesh 4-0-32-1, Ngidi 4-0-39-2, Kuldeep 4-0-32-2, Natarajan 2-0-16-0, Axar 3-0-18-2.

DELHI CAPITALS

Pathum Nissanka lbw b Bhuvneshwar 1 *(2b)*, K.L. Rahul c Kohli b Krunal 57 *(34b, 6x4, 2x6)*, Karun Nair **(Impact Player for Mukesh)** c Salt b Bhuvneshwar 5 *(5b, 1x4)*, Sameer Rizvi c Jitesh b Bhuvneshwar 2 *(3b)*, Tristan Stubbs (not out) 60 *(47b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Axar Patel retired hurt 26 *(19b, 3x4)*, David Miller (not out) 22 *(10b, 1x4, 2x6)*; Extras (lb-3, nb-1, w-2): 6; Total (for four wkts. in 19.5 overs): 179.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-2 (Nissanka, 0.4), 2-16 (Karun, 2.2), 3-18 (Rizvi, 2.5), 4-87 (Rahul, 10.1).

RCB BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 4-0-26-3, Hazlewood 4-0-38-0, Rasikh 4-0-40-0, Krunal 4-0-24-1, Suyash 3-0-31-0, Shepherd 0.5-0-17-0.

Toss: Delhi Capitals.

Player-of-the-Match: Stubbs.

Capitals won by six wickets with one ball to spare.

Next assignment

DC: April 21 vs. **SRH** *Hyderabad*, 7.30 p.m.

RCB: April 24 vs. **GT** *Bengaluru*, 7.30 p.m.

Abhishek blitz, Malinga spell help SRH sink CSK

Fire and ice: Abhishek smashed a 22-ball 59 before Malinga kept the CSK batters in check. NAGARA GOPAL

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

It's a lot of pressure to have 30,000-plus fans pinning their hopes on you to close out a tight game. More so after you've made an imperious first impression with a four-for on debut. On Saturday, 24-year-old Praful Hinge held his nerve to hand Sunrisers Hyderabad a 10-run win against Chennai Super Kings in IPL 2026 at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium.

A blistering half-century from Abhishek Sharma (59, 22b, 6x4, 4x6) and Heinrich Klaasen's 59 (39b, 6x4, 2x6) lifted SRH to 194 for nine, its highest total against the Super Kings.

Matt Short, who had spent an extended time honing specific lines in Friday's training, successfully stifled SRH's left-handed opening pair. It, however, was short-lived. Abhishek swiftly changed from second to fifth gear, regardless of pace or spin offered to him.

For a moment, the Travishek show seemed unstoppable. Cricket, though, rarely follows a script. Ruturaj Gaikwad's diving catch at mid-off sent Travis Head back, and Ishan Kishan was scooped up for a duck. When a successful Sanju Samson review for a faint edge ended Abhishek's stay and a promoted Aniket Verma couldn't capitalise, CSK had truly clawed its way back.

While Klaasen kept chipping away, Kamboj presided over a masterful effort at the death to leave SRH well short of the statement finish it promised to deliver.

While the chase burst into life straight away, Samson's early positivity was nipped in the bud by Nitish Kumar in the second over. Any relief was fleeting as Ayush Mhatre came out swinging. A fierce swivel-pull disappeared into the stands, and four more boundaries helped plunder 24 runs off Praful.

Mhatre's momentum, however, was undone by his own hamstring as he holed out soon after to Klaasen at extra-cover. Thereafter, partnerships were hard to come by for the Super Kings. Eshan Malinga scalped Ruturaj and Sarfaraz Khan, who had lit up this venue with an effortless Ranji double ton just a few months ago, couldn't recreate that magic.

After Shivang Kumar removed the dangerous Dewald Brevis, Kamboj and Jamie Overton managed to bring the equation down to 18 off the last six balls, but the target ultimately proved a bridge too far.

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Punjab Kings	5	4	0	1	9	1.067
Royal Challengers	6	4	2	0	8	1.171
Rajasthan Royals	5	4	1	0	8	0.889
Sunrisers Hyderabad	6	3	3	0	6	0.566
Delhi Capitals	5	3	2	0	6	0.310
Gujarat Titans	5	3	2	0	6	0.018
Chennai Super Kings	6	2	4	0	4	-0.780
Lucknow Super Giants	5	2	3	0	4	-0.804
Mumbai Indians	5	1	4	0	2	-1.076
Kolkata Knight Riders	6	0	5	1	1	-1.149

SCOREBOARD

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

Abhishek Sharma c Samson b Overton 59 *(22b, 6x4, 4x6)*, Travis Head c Ruturaj b Mukesh 23 *(20b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Ishan Kishan c Ruturaj b Mukesh 0 *(1b)*, Heinrich Klaasen b Kamboj 59 *(39b, 6x4, 2x6)*, Aniket Verma c Noor b Overton 2 *(4b)*, Nitish Kumar c Short b Overton 12 *(8b, 1x6)*, Salil Arora c Brevis b Gurjapneet 13 *(12b, 2x4)*, Liam Livingstone **(Impact Player for Head)** c Brevis b Kamboj 1 *(5b)*, Shivang Kumar c Gurjapneet b Kamboj 12 *(8b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Praful Hinge (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (b-5, lb-4, w-4): 13; Total (for nine wkts. in 20 overs): 194.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-75 (Head, 5.5 overs), 2-75 (Kishan, 5.6), 3-93 (Abhishek, 7.6), 4-112 (Aniket, 10.1), 5-147 (Nitish, 13.5), 6-177 (Klaasen, 17.2), 7-179 (Salil, 18.1), 8-193 (Shivang, 19.4), 9-194 (Livingstone, 19.6).

SUPER KINGS BOWLING

Short 3-0-38-0, Mukesh 2-0-21-2, Kamboj 3-0-22-3, Noor 4-0-33-0, Overton 4-0-37-3, Gurjapneet 4-0-34-1.

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS

Sanju Samson c Klaasen b Nitish 7 *(3b, 1x6)*, Ruturaj Gaikwad c Salil b Malinga 19 *(13b, 3x4)*, Ayush Mhatre **(Impact Player for Gurjapneet)** c Klaasen b Nitish 30 *(13b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Matthew Short c Aniket b Malinga 34 *(30b, 3x4)*, Sarfaraz Khan c Nitish b Malinga 25 *(19b, 3x4)*, Dewald Brevis c Livingstone b Shivang 0 *(4b)*, Shivam Dube b Sakib 21 *(16b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Jamie Overton c Livingstone b Praful 16 *(15b, 1x4)*, Anshul Kamboj (not out) 13 *(8b, 1x6)*, Noor Ahmad (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-2, w-15): 18; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 184.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-15 (Samson, 1.1), 2-66 (Mhatre, 4.4), 3-66 (Ruturaj, 5.1), 4-112 (Sarfaraz, 10.4), 5-113 (Brevis, 11.4), 6-148 (Short, 15.4), 7-154 (Dube, 16.5), 8-182 (Overton, 19.4).

SUNRISERS BOWLING

Praful 4-0-60-1, Nitish 4-0-31-2, Sakib 4-0-32-1, Malinga 4-0-29-3, Shivang 3-0-18-1, Abhishek 1-0-13-0.

Toss: Super Kings.

Player-of-the-Match: Malinga.

Sunrisers won by 10 runs.

Next assignment

SRH: April 21 vs. **DC** *Hyderabad*, 7.30 p.m.

CSK: April 23 vs. **MI** *Mumbai*, 7.30 p.m.

Will he, won't he — the Dhoni game continues

Wait is on: Dhoni has kept the fans guessing over his first appearance in IPL 2026. PTI

Anirudh Velamuri
HYDERABAD

The M.S. Dhoni frenzy, building steadily with each passing season, has reached fever pitch this year. Every Chennai Super Kings fixture now seems to orbit a single, lingering question: will the former captain finally step onto the field?

Ahead of the clash against Sunrisers Hyderabad, the team's official Instagram account only heightened the anticipation, teasing Dhoni's arrival in the City of Pearls.

Yet, at Friday's training session, the 44-year-old kept things low-key, alternating between light jogging and a casual game of foot-volleyball alongside Sanju Samson, Sarfaraz Khan, and a few others.

Head coach Stephen Fleming remained predictably tight-lipped, offering little beyond the standard line that Dhoni was "progressing well" in his recovery.

But just when it seemed like another day of speculation would drift by unanswered, a late twist reignited belief.

As the squad wrapped up and disappeared into the depths of the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Dhoni emerged once more – this time fully padded up, bat in hand.

Facing a handful of side-arm throwdowns, he unleashed a flurry of towering hits, punctuated by his signature helicopter shot.

Word spread instantly. By match-day, the buzz around the stadium wasn't about if Dhoni would play, but how much he would feature.

Hopes belied

And then, just as quickly, the excitement evaporated. At the toss, Dhoni's name was nowhere to be found – not even among the impact substitutes.

Back to square one. Back to the waiting game. And once again, the question lingers: when will he finally return? Or maybe more importantly, will he?

Knight Riders have their task cut out against Royals

Rahane and Co. are yet to taste success this season; RR's head coach Sangakkara does not want his players to drop their guard against the bottom-placed home team at the iconic Eden Gardens

IPL-19

Santadeep Dey
KOLKATA

If performance were currency in the Indian Premier League, third-placed Rajasthan Royals (RR) would have its wallet full while bottom-dweller Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) would be left searching under the couch cushions.

Notwithstanding the minor blip in its last game against Sunrisers Hyderabad, RR seems to have cracked the Twenty20 code.

But, Ajinkya Rahane and Co. have made losing look alarmingly routine.

As the schedule throws them together in the sultry afternoon conditions of the Eden Gardens here on Sunday, it is time to find out whether creative faculty does indeed trump desperation.

Kumar Sangakkara, RR's head coach, hasn't dropped guard despite the opponent's winless form guide reading like a cry for help after six games.

All ears: Sangakkara has a word with Jaiswal. RITU RAJ KONWAR

"They're a very tough and good side. It's about concentrating on what we do well. And then trying to do that over the course of 240 balls. We don't take any side easy. Records don't matter for anything when you play head-to-head," he said.

Statistics would say Sangakkara is being too generous. The PowerPlay, in fact, may end up dictating proceedings. For RR, thanks to electric starts from Yashasvi Jaiswal and Vaibhav Suryavanshi, has the highest boundary percentage in the first six overs at 34.44.

KKR batters have done only marginally better than Lucknow Super Giants (19.44) and Delhi Capitals (22.60) with 23.76.

Rubbing salt to its wounds are KKR's bowlers.

They have conceded 60.5 runs on average per wicket in the first 36 balls – the worst for any team.

Meanwhile, no outfit has fared better than RR's 20.69 in this regard.

With how the season has turned out, the host would be thanking its stars it didn't have to face the media on Saturday.

The team touched down in the evening after another defeat, this time at the hands of Gujarat Titans, the previous night.

Unbeaten Kings start favourites against stuttering Super Giants

Dhruva Prasad
NEW CHANDIGARH

The contrasting fortunes of Punjab Kings and Lucknow Super Giants will converge when the two teams lock horns at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh Stadium here on Sunday night. The Kings have not put a foot wrong and are yet to lose a match this Indian Premier League season, while the Super Giants have stuttered to three defeats in five games. The gulf between the sides reflects their divergent methods.

PBKS has built its batting colossus, which has already mauled two 200-plus totals with clinical ease this season, by setting up a fiery launchpad in the PowerPlay thanks to the blazing opening duo of Prabhsimran Singh and Priyansh Arya. Skipper Shreyas Iyer ensures the momentum doesn't taper off, resulting in an overall run rate of 10.87 – the second-highest in the league.

Meanwhile, LSG sputters and rattles at 8.74 – an anachronistic tempo and the lowest amongst the 10 teams this year.

The difference, though, has more to do with the form of the personnel rather than the team's philosophy. LSG boasts a marauding top four in Mitchell Marsh, Aiden Markram, Nicholas Pooran and skipper Rishabh Pant, but their collective failure has forced finisher Mukul Choudhary, in his debut IPL season, to do the bulk of the scoring.

LSG's two wins so far have been set up by disciplined and incisive bowling in the PowerPlay by Mohammed Shami and Prince Yadav. It is the most economical team in the first six overs this year by a distance, conceding just 7.43 runs per over.

The Super Giants' parsimony with the ball and the Kings' excesses upfront with the bat should make for a tantalising duel.

The bounce and carry, and some grass on the pitch, usually keep the pacers hungry early on here, and Arshdeep Singh's return to form bodes well for the host.

In focus: Digvesh's spin may come in handy for LSG. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Today's matches

Kolkata, 3.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 31
KKR 16 | RR 14 | NR 1
PREVIOUS MEETING
KKR won by one run, 2025

New Chandigarh, 7.30.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 6
PBKS 3 | LSG 3
PREVIOUS MEETING
PBKS won by 37 runs, 2025

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1,2 & JIOHOTSTAR

Sangakkara plays down skipper Parag's poor run of scores

Santadeep Dey
KOLKATA

Rajasthan Royals (RR) looks like it has its house in order. For the most part.

It did go down heavily to the Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) in its last IPL 2026 fixture, but skipper Riyan Parag did well to label the defeat as a mere 'blip' and move on. There was nothing to worry about, he said.

Ironically, it could be Parag's lowly returns, after all, that may have the Royals a tad stressed. In five outings, Parag hasn't been able to reach 50 runs. His batting average reads 12.25.

However, Kumar Sangakkara, RR's head coach, didn't seem too worried. "When I am watching Riyan, he's hitting the ball off the middle. I've been through this myself as a cricketer. There are some days when you're batting well, you're just not getting the runs," he said on Saturday ahead of the game against Kolkata Knight Riders.

Cynosure of all eyes: Suryavanshi will be keen to fire on all cylinders after a rare failure in the previous game. RITU RAJ KONWAR

It's difficult to get through an RR presser these days without at least one mention of the sensational Vaibhav Suryavanshi. Naturally, Sangakkara was asked to react to Suryavanshi's golden duck against SRH after scoring 200 runs in the other four games while striking at 266.66.

"You're allowed to score runs, you're allowed to fail. It's part and parcel of cricket. Vaibhav is such an exciting young player. He reads the game well. He anticipates situations. But the nature of opening batting in T20s, especially now the way the game's moving, is very much all-out attack. So, sometimes, for a batter like that, less said, the better".

Shreyas has overcome his weaknesses: Hopes

Dhruva Prasad
NEW CHANDIGARH

Punjab Kings fast bowling coach James Hopes, who has had a long association with Shreyas Iyer in the IPL, believes the key to the India batter's recent success is his ability to identify his shortcomings.

"He is very aware of what his perceived weaknesses were over the years, and he comes into this season having nailed them... Once he finds his way back into the Indian team, you will see the batter he is going to be for the rest of his career. A world-class short-format batter and someone who could fit into long-format cricket pretty easily," Hopes, who has also spent three years with Shreyas as a coach at Delhi Capitals, said.

The former Australian all-rounder also hailed his captaincy, under which PBKS reached the final last year. "He was very young when he was captaining Delhi, and he is more experienced; he is very well planned, and he still follows his gut. When he is with the team, he is also one of the boys; he really endears himself to the group."

Hopes also added that the team management always trusted Arshdeep Singh, who repaid the faith with figures of three for 22 against Mumbai Indians after going wicketless in his first three games.

IPL DIARY

Prince has all the ingredients to be a special bowler: Arun
Lucknow Super Giants bowling coach Bharat Arun has heaped praise on pacer Prince Yadav. "He is a very exciting prospect. He has got everything in him to be a successful bowler. He has a reasonably good pace, can move the ball, and has got good variety – the slower balls and the yorkers. All the ingredients to make him a special bowler in this format (T20)," Arun said on Saturday.

Prince. AP

Hopes feels it's an even contest between bat and ball
Punjab Kings fast bowling coach James Hopes feels there has been a nice balance between the bat and ball in the last two IPL seasons. "One of the stats that sticks out for me in the last couple of years is the increase in run rates in the PowerPlay, and then a little stagnation or decrease in death-over run rates. Bowlers are getting very good at defending, and the batters are getting very good at overpowering grounds and learning how to power-hit. I think it is a nice balance," he said.

Sharvaanica is FIDE World rapid u-12 champ

Sports Bureau

India's A.S. Sharvaanica won the under-12 girls title in the FIDE World rapid chess championship in Vrnjacka Banja, Serbia.

The 11-year-old sealed the top prize with two rounds to spare. The Woman Candidate Master registered 10 wins and played out a draw against Ukraine's Daria Kravchuk to finish with 10.5 points.

She secured the title with a victory over higher-rated Slovenia's Ema Jaksa in the ninth round.

Sharvaanica.

The victory is her second World Rapid title. She had earlier won gold in the u-10 category aged nine.

Suraj, the lone Indian in the semifinals

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Suraj Kumar Chand was the lone Indian to make it to the semifinals of the HCL Squash PSA Challenger Tour, here on Saturday.

Other results (quarterfinals, Indians unless specified): Men: Jeongmin Ryu (Kor) bt Ravindu Laksiri (SL) 4-11, 11-7, 11-6, 11-4; Andes Ling (HK) bt Lap Man Au (HK) 11-5, 4-11, 11-7, 11-8; Wailok To (HK) bt N. Moganasundharam (Mas) 12-10, 11-6, 11-3.
Women: Sehveetrraa Kumar (Mas) bt Nirupama Dubey 11-3, 11-6, 11-6; Rouqaia Othman (Egy) bt Rathika Suthanthira Seelan 11-5, 11-9, 11-8; Harleein Tan (Mas) bt Pooja Arthi Raghu 11-4, 11-5, 12-10; Salma Othman (Egy) bt Mingyeong Heo (Kor) 12-10, 11-7, 13-11.

Zestful Blasters get the better of Jamshedpur

ISL

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOCHI

Kerala Blasters is looking increasingly better. Alas, it is a bit too late in the season. Ashley Westwood's boys played with conviction and intent to score a commanding 2-0 victory over a strong Jameshdpur FC at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Saturday.

Remember, Jamshedpur started the game just three points behind the leader, while Blasters were lying second from bottom. Alas, there wasn't a big crowd to watch them record probably their best win of the campaign so far.

The fans, who are often called the best at the ISL, would have enjoyed the way their team went on the attack from early on. The home team had gone 2-0 with nine minutes still remaining in the opening half.

Apart from Westwood's tactics - he took over less than three weeks ago - the new additions to the squad have also contributed to the team's change of fortunes. Franchu and Karim Benarif started in this match, and the attack looked sharper.

The heroes: Vibin and Nihal ensured KBFC notched up its first home win of the season. R.K. NITHIN

It was Benarif's superb cross from the left flank into the box that created the opening goal, with Nihal Sudheesh timing his header with a jump. The second goal was also off a header, Vibin Mohanan doing well to convert the excellent cross from the right.

The visitor was reduced to 10 men for the last six minutes after collecting a red card.

The host ensured it kept the advantage till the final whistle this time around to collect three points; it now has eight from 10 matches and climbed to 11th place.

The results:
Kerala Blasters 2 (Nihal Sudheesh 12, Vibin Mohanan 36) bt Jamshedpur FC 0.
At Goa: FC Goa 2 (Tavora 29, Nemil 45+2) bt Mumbai City FC 0.

Inter Milan edges closer to Serie A title

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
MILAN

Inter Milan took another step towards the Serie A title on Friday by comfortably beating Cagliari 3-0 and taking a provisional 12-point lead at the top of the table.

Second-half strikes at the San Siro from Marcus Thuram and Nicolo Barella, and Piotr Zielinski's rocket in stoppage time, took Inter to potentially one game away from claiming its 21st league crown.

The results: Premier League: Brentford 0 drew with Fulham 0; Newcastle 1 (Osula 68) lost to Bournemouth 2 (Tavernier 32, Truffert 85); Leeds 3 (Justin 18, Okafor 20, Calvert-Lewin 90+5-pen) bt Wolves 0.
Serie A: Udinese 0 lost to Parma 1 (Elphege 51).
Bundesliga: Bayer Leverkusen 1 (Schick 12) lost to Augsburg 2 (Rieder 15, 90+7-pen); Hoffenheim 2 (Kramaric 42-pen, 90+8-pen) bt Borussia Dortmund 1 (Guirassy 87); Union Berlin 1 (Burke 85) lost to Wolfsburg 2 (Wimmer 11, Pejcinovic 46); Werder Bremen 3 (Stage 37, 57, Puertas 90+1) bt Hamburg 1 (Glatzel 41).
On Friday: Serie A: Inter 3 (Thuram 53, Barella 56, Zielinski 90+2) bt Cagliari 0; Sassuolo 2 (Volpato 42, Nzola 44) bt Como 1 (Paz 45+1).
Bundesliga: St. Pauli 1 (Mets 69) drew with Cologne 1 (Waldschmidt 86-pen).

Tap in: Thuram scores Inter's first against Cagliari. AFP

SNAPSHOTS

Chotrani crashes out
French fourth seed Baptiste Masotti beat Veer Chotrani 12-10, 9-11, 14-12, 9-11, 11-6 in the quarterfinals of Hamburg Open, a PSA Bronze-level event.

U Mumba retains coach duo of Jay and Murphy
Reigning UTT champion U Mumba TT retained its title-winning coaching combination of Jay Modak and John Murphy, while Sourav Chakraborty will be among four new tacticians making their UTT debut.
The next edition of the franchise-based league will take place in Goa in July. Sourav will take charge of Ahmedabad APL Pipers and former player Abhishek Yadav will be return to the tournament as a coach of UP Prometheans.

Hassan District held by Rangers
Hassan District HA was held to a 1-1 draw by Rangers HC in the KSHA 'A' division hockey league in Bengaluru on Saturday.
The results: Hassan District HA 1 (Augustine Martin 15) drew with Rangers HC 1 (Suresh 22).

Kadur comes up with a fine drive, leaves Gill behind

The 37-year-old moves within striking distance of the title after an interesting duel with his rival; Jhabakh in the third place in APRC after surviving a broken drive-shaft on the day's second stage

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Karna Kadur and co-driver Kumar Ramaswamy (Arka Motorsports) came up with a drive to remember as he opened a 22-second lead over legendary Gaurav Gill (Srikanth GM) from Delhi and topped the 49th South India Rally at the Madras International Circuit here on Saturday. With four more Special Stages to be run on Sunday and a sizeable lead, Kadur is within striking distance of the title.

Kadur, the 37-year-old Bengalurean supported by MRF Tyres, heads both the APRC and INRC Overall standings ahead of three-time APRC champion Gill.

Hyderabad's Jeet Jhabakh, with veteran Musa Sherif from Kasaragod as the co-driver, is placed third in APRC after surviving a broken drive-shaft in the day's second Stage and nursing the car to the garage.

Trailing Kadur and Gill in the INRC Overall standings is another MRF Tyres-supported crew of Vishakh Balachandran (Thiruvananthapuram) and co-driver Chiranth Jain (Karkala) of Duran Racing who also leads in the INRC 3T class.

The Kadur-Gill duel highlighted the day's proceedings. Kadur enjoyed a near-trouble-free run today in his Volkswagen Polo and won all four Special Stages. "I will take the win today. I wanted to stay low at the start and build up gradually, but with Gaurav (Gill) behind me, I had to drive hard all day to stay ahead of the legend. I have a good lead, but we have four more Stages tomorrow, in the reverse direction. I don't want to ease off, but be mindful of the ruts and rocks that we threw up today," said Kadur who last won the National title, his third, in 2024.

On the charge: Kadur has pulled ahead of the field in the APRC and INRC Overall standings.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Provisional classification
(Leg-1): Asia-Pacific Rally Championship: 1. Karna Kadur & Kumar Ramaswamy (Arka Motorsports) (01h, 01m, 09.9s); 2. Gaurav Gill & G.M. Srikanth (01:01:32.3); 3. Jeet Jhabakh & Musa Sherif (01:04:22.3).
Indian National Rally Championship: INRC Overall: 1. Karna Kadur & Kumar Ramaswamy (Arka Motorsports) (01:01:09.9); 2. Gaurav Gill & G.M. Srikanth GM (01:01:32.3); 3. Vishak Balachandran & Chiranth Jain (Duran Racing) (01:03:39.9).
INRC 2: 1. Ritesh Guttedar & M. Suraj (AART Motorsports) (01:04:21.1); 2. Jeet Jhabakh & Musa Sherif (Pvt.) (01:04:22.3); 3. Arun Y Mavaji & Jeevarathinam (Chettinad Sporting) (01:06:17.6).
INRC 3: 1. Arvind Dheerendra & Shahid Salman (Chettinad Sporting) (01:03:52.3); 2. Abhishek Gowda & Mahesh Nandi (Arka Motorsports) (01:04.45.1); 3. Chandan Manchegowda & Suraj Keshav Prasad (Arka Motorpsports) (01:04.59.3).
INRC 3T: 1. Vishak Balachandran & Chiranth Jain (Duran Racing) (01:03:39.9); 2. Anushriya Gulati & Karan Aukta (Arka Motorsports) (01:06:04.7); 3. K.C. Adith & C.A. Avinash (Arka Motorsports) (01:08:25.2).
Ladies: 1. Tarushi Vikram & Athreya Kousgi (Chettinad Sporting) (01:05:17.0); 2. Anushriya Gulati & Karan Aukta (Arka Motorsports) (01:06:04.7); 2. Shivani Pruthvi & Vinay Padmashali (01:06.26.1);
Junior INRC: 1. Tarushi Vikram & Athreya Kousgi (01:05:17.0).

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 3.30 & 7.30 p.m.
IFL: Sony Sports Ten 5 & LIV, 4 & 6.30 p.m.
Serie A: DAZN, 4, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.15 a.m. (Monday)
South Africa Women vs India Women: 2nd T20I, Star Sports 3 & JioHotstar, 5.30 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 6.30 & 9 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2 & LIV, 7, 9 & 11 p.m.
ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 7.30 p.m.

AFI announces squad for World Relays

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) will field five out of six qualified teams at the World Relays to be held in Gaborone, Botswana, on May 2 and 3. India will compete in 4x100m men's, women's and mixed relays and 4x400m men's and mixed relays. The women's 4x400m relay team will not participate in the meet.

"Our focus is (4x400m) mixed relay where we have a far better chance and some of our women are injured. There is no point in taking athletes who are not 100 per cent fit," said AFI spokesperson Adille Sumariwalla while announcing the teams at a virtual press conference on Saturday.

The squad: Men: 4x400m men's and mixed relay: Rajesh Ramesh, Manu T.S., Amoj Jacob, Dharamveer Choudhary, Theerthesh Shetty, Nihal Joel William, Vishal T.K.
4x100m men's and mixed relay: Pranav Gaurav, Gurindervir Singh, Animesh Kujur, Ragul Kumar Ganesh Kumar, Harsh Raut, Tamilarasu S.
Women: 4x400m mixed relay: Rashdeep Kaur, Kumari Saloni Nagar, Ansa Babu.
4x100m women's and mixed relay: Tamanna, Sudeshna Hanmant Shivankar, Nithya Gandhe, Sneha S.S., Srabani Nanda.

AFI to certify synthetic tracks in India over World Athletics concerns

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) on Saturday said that it would start certifying tracks in the country as World Athletics (WA) was unhappy over the 'substandard' synthetic surfaces in India.

The AFI took this decision at its recently-concluded annual general meeting (AGM) in Kohima.

"There're so many complaints of synthetic tracks not being up to the standard. We had a meeting with WA in Tokyo and it was evident they were not happy with the quality that was being certified. The AFI will now help in certifying and ensuring that all standards of measurement and quality are met," AFI spokesperson Adille Sumariwalla said at a virtual press conference.

"Ninety per cent-plus tracks in India are substandard – the material, the process, the granules, the laying methodology, the thickness. At places only tyre rubber is being used instead of polyurethane."

The goal: Sumariwalla said India would like to host big events.
FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

According to Sumariwalla, the SRY gene test, which began last year to identify female athletes (with priority on international athletes), will be done at the national level from the Federation meet in Ranchi next month. The AFI would bear the cost, a reduced amount of ₹3500 per test.

The AGM approved the proposal of introducing DNA testing of the athletes to get data, including muscle composition and its traits, which would help towards training, prevention of injuries and recovery.

About the AFI's initiative to sign an agreement for safeguarding the interest of athletes and sponsors, Sumariwalla said the federation would have consultations over three months before taking a final decision.

Sumariwalla parried a question on reported allegations of harassment brought up by a top para-athlete against a javelin coach, saying due process would be followed.

> Ninety per cent-plus tracks in India are substandard – the material, the process, the granules, the laying methodology, the thickness. At places, only tyre rubber is being used instead of polyurethane
>
> **SUMARIWALLA**
> AFI spokesperson

He said India would like to host big events. While it has won the bid for the 2028 World Indoor championships, it is in the race for the World under-20 championships and is keen for the 2031 World championships, the Asian Relays in Chandigarh and the Asian Indoor meet in Bhubaneswar.

Sumariwalla touched upon the 'Kohima Declaration,' which emphasised integration of north-eastern states through sports, and the conduct of an awards function in Delhi on June 20 to mark the AFI's 80th year.

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